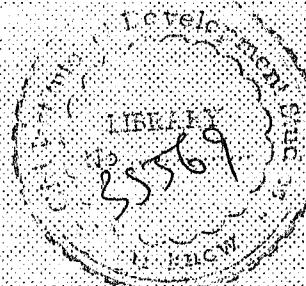
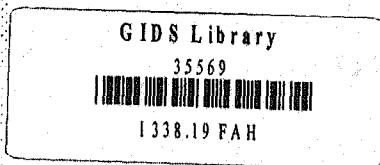


NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT TO PRIMARY EDUCATION (MID-DAY MEALS) : A COMPARATIVE LESSONS OF EXPERIENCE IN UTTAR PRADESH AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

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NEW DELHI



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PREFACE

THE National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Scheme) is an incentive scheme, being implemented in different states of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh since August, 1995. The main objective behind the implementation of Mid-Day Meals Scheme was that it would operate as a positive catalyst to increase the enrolment, retention and attendance of students at primary education level who belonged to poorer sections of the population particularly in rural areas. The scheme was in operation since last five years and it was expected that impact of scheme on primary education would have been significant. With this view, the Planning Commission, Government of India had commissioned the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow to conduct an evaluation of scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. This report is an endeavour in this direction.

At the outset, I feel obliged to the Planning Commission, Government of India, for providing grants-in-aid to conduct this study. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who helped me in completion of the task. I express my profound obligation and gratitude to Mr. K.K. Bakshi, Advisor-in-charge of Education and Dr. V.P. Garg, Joint Advisor (Education) at Planning Commission, Government of India for providing me the opportunity to work on the subject.

The research team of the project at the Institute did its best to complete the difficult task of data collection and tabulation and deserves all appreciation from me.

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APRIL 2000

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 BACKGROUND

THE World Conference on 'Education for All' held in Jomtien, Thailand in March 1990 obtained a consensus from 155 governments to achieve Education For All by 2000 AD. India being a signatory to the Jomtien Declaration has committed itself to providing Basic Education for all by 2000 AD. However, a review of the educational planning and development process during the last few decades reveals that all Educational Commissions and development plans emphasized the critical role of education, especially basic education in the development process and argued for the universalisation of basic education and eradication of illiteracy. Hence, quantitative expansion of educational facilities at all levels in order to provide access to schools to as large a proportion of the population as possible, received primary attention. But the improvement in the quality of education was not accorded the same importance. Moreover, various programmes implemented for the universalisation of education yielded expected results in some states, whereas in a large number of states, the schemes did not succeed. As a result, the goal of providing compulsory basic education to all children remained largely elusive as yet.

I.2 PROBLEM OF BASIC EDUCATION IN INDIA

There has been a spectacular increase in basic education during the post-independence period. The basic education system of India has expanded to be one of the largest in the world. The number of primary schools increased from 209671 in 1950-51 to 565786 in 1991-92; the corresponding increase in upper primary schools was from 13596 to 152077. These 717863 schools enrolled 136.03 million children in 1991 as compared to 22.28 million in 1951.

Despite the above, in 1991 overall literacy for persons above the age of seven stood at 52 per cent; for women, the rate was 39 per cent. Although a Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) of more than 100 per cent was reported for the primary school age group (6-11), the GER in upper primary (ages 11-14) was only 60 per cent. In 1986-87, the last year for which complete data are available, 51 per cent of boys and 67 per cent of girls failed to complete the eight year elementary cycle. The dropout estimates for the same year in primary cycle was 47 per cent. For girls, primary enrolment rates were lower than for boys (86 per cent versus 115 per cent) and dropout rates were higher (49 per cent versus 43 per cent). Girls were less likely to enroll in upper primary education, with a GER of 46 per cent, compared to 73 per cent for boys and were more likely to drop out. Enrolments of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe girls were lower than the national average for girls. The development of primary education has also been extremely uneven across the states and union territories. Kerala state achieved miracle in enrolment while the largest state of U.P. lagged far behind. On account of all such poor achievements by India in basic education, Prof. Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen observed:

"There is one field in which India clearly has done worse than even the average of the poorest countries in the World, and that is elementary education. The rate of adult literacy for India has reached only about 50 per cent, which is low not only in comparison with China's 78 per cent, but even compared with the average figure of 55 per cent of all low income countries excluding China as well as India. India has been left way behind in the field of basic education even by countries which have not done better than India in many other developmental achievements, such as Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Burma, Philippines, Zimbabwe and Zambia."

I.3 PROBLEM OF BASIC EDUCATION IN U.P.

Uttar Pradesh is among three worst Indian States with Orissa and Madhya Pradesh in terms of basic education achievements. The adult literacy rate of male population was 56 per cent and of female population only 25 per cent. The percentage of rural children aged 12-14 years who have never been enrolled in a school in 1986-87 was 27 and 68 of male and female respectively. Of Uttar Pradesh's 63 districts in 1991, 30 recorded female literacy rates of less than 20 per cent. At the root of these figures is an undeveloped state primary education system that enrolled 98 per cent of boys and 62 per cent of girls but lost approximately 40 per cent of enrolled boys and 60 per cent of enrolled girls before they completed five years of education and acquired basic literacy skills. In U.P., 11.24 per cent of the population still has no access to primary education as against only 5.40 per cent in the country as a whole. Education facilities also remained inadequate since the formulation of the National Policy on Education (NPE) in 1986 and

revised Plan of Action (PoA) in 1992, more than 2500 schools in urban areas remained without a building of their own. 6671 primary schools and 2104 upper primary schools were in dilapidated condition. Over 34000 primary schools and 1600 upper primary schools do not have drinking water facilities and over 52000 have no toilet facilities.

A review of the situation calls for the concerted and well-co-ordinated Plan of Action with commensurate policy package. Since the National Policy on Education, 1986 and the adoption of Plan of Action (PoA) in 1992, several programmes viz., operation black board, introduction of MLL, Teacher Education, May-Day Meals Scheme, Shiksha Karmi Project and several other Central Government sponsored and international aided projects/ schemes have been implemented in different states of the country.

I.4 NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT TO PRIMARY EDUCATION (MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME):

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Scheme) is one of such schemes. It is intended to give a boost to Universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in primary classes. The programme envisages provision of nutritious and wholesome cooked meal of 100 gms of foodgrains per school day free of cost to all children in classes I-V, commencing from 1995-96 in a phased manner. As an interim measure, three kilograms of foodgrains per student per month is being distributed to children who have at least 80 per cent attendance.

I.4.1 CENTRAL ASSISTANCE AND ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS:

The guidelines of the scheme envisaged the assistance of Central Government to local bodies such as Panchayats and Nagarpalikas in implementing the programme by providing wheat/rice (as may be required) from the nearest Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns. The broad principles of allocation of foodgrains are as follows:

- (i) District is the unit of allocation.
- (ii) Allocation of foodgrains to be supplied through FCI by Government of India is made once in every quarterly cycle of three month period.
- (iii) The initial allocation was for a quarter based on the data on 1993-94 enrolment collected in the Sixth All India Education Survey.
- (iv) From the second quarter of the commencement of the Scheme in an area, quarterly allocations are based on the off-take figures received from the FCI and the district-wise utilisation certificate and enrolment data received from the state.
- (v) The allotment of foodgrains from FCI godowns would be valid for the quarter for which it is allotted and cannot be carried forward to the subsequent quarter.

- (vi) Based on the allocation made for each district by the Government of India, the district collector further allocates the entitlement of each school/local authority and specifies who will lift the foodgrains.

I.4.2 MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS:

- (i) The District Collector is responsible for collection from the FCI godown and arranging transportation of foodgrains and distribution thereof to the local bodies/schools based on the entitlement of individual schools.
- (ii) Linkages would have to be developed between FCI and the schools in each district to ensure smooth flowing of foodgrains.
- (iii) The Central Government will reimburse through District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for rural areas and to Nagarpalika, transportation cost for moving the foodgrains from the FCI godowns to the schools/villages at the rate of Rs.25/- per quintal as applicable under the RPDS.
- (iv) The Central support in the form of the food grains and reimbursement of transportation cost from the nearest godown of the Food Corporation of India would be available to the districts directly on the basis of district-wise details of enrolment and attendance furnished by the State Government.

I.4.3 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:

- (i) The implementing agencies of the programme will be local bodies/authorities such as Panchayats and Nagarpalikas.
- (ii) Local bodies will have the flexibility to organise the provision of cooked/pre-cooked food by the schools or in association with the school parent-teacher committees, non-government organisations, women/DWACRA Groups and other organisations.
- (iii) Local bodies will also have the flexibility to decide the type of food to be provided subject to the food being wholesome and having a calorific value equivalent to the 100 grams of wheat/rice per student per day. To ensure that this stipulation is adhered to both in letter and spirit, appropriate supervisory mechanism will have to be established by the local bodies.
- (iv) Local bodies are expected to develop institutional arrangement for providing cooked/pre-cooked food within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the programme in the local area. However, in the interim period, a prelude to the provision of cooked/pre-cooked food in the schools, food grains at the rate of 3 kgs per student per month may be distributed to all the children of classes I to V subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent.

1.4.4 LABOUR CHARGES:

Remuneration for conversion of food grains into cooked food as well as expenditure incurred on construction of kitchen sheds, the latter wherever necessary, will be eligible for coverage under the poverty alleviation scheme being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.

1.4.5 SUPERVISION AND MONITORING:

- (i) Local bodies/authorities should set up Committees such as Village Education Committees (VECs) with broad popular participation to create an awareness of the programme, to generate community support to the programme, to universalise participation of all children in primary education, to improve the function and environment of the schools and to ensure that the scheme functions in terms of the broad objectives it seeks to achieve.
- (ii) At the District level, the programme may be overseen by a Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Collector. The Committee should include people's representatives like MPs, MLAs, President of the Zila Parishads/Panchayat Samitis, Chairmen of Nagarpalikas and also officials of the concerned Departments. This Committee should, *inter alia*, create awareness, facilitate and monitor the implementation of the programme and foster linkages with other related programmes

like the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), primary education and school health. Similar committees should be set up at panchayat samitis/Blocks.

- (iii) At the state level, a department may be designated as the department responsible for implementation of the programme. In case the designated department is other than the Education Department, strong linkages need to be developed between the designated department and the Primary Education Department. Towards this end, it is suggested that an institutional mechanism of a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner be constituted to oversee the implementation of the programme. The Committee should include the Secretaries and Heads of Departments of all the concerned Departments. The Committee could also ensure and look after the convergence of primary education, primary health care, early childhood care and education, nutrition and other related services.
- (iv) For proper monitoring of the programme, a computerised management information system (MIS) is being developed by the Department of Education, Government of India in consultation with the National Informatics Centre. Till this system is operationalised, states are requested to ensure adequate information flows for smooth implementation of the programme.
- (v) The Central Government would entrust concurrent monitoring and evaluation of programme to independent agencies. Access to be provided to designated agencies for discharge of the monitoring and evaluation functions.

1.4.6 DETAILS TO BE FURNISHED TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

For facilitating the operation of the programme, state governments are requested to furnish a scheme with the following details to the Department of Education, Government of India:

- (i) The names of the RPDS/EAS/LEL blocks/Local Bodies authorities or notified urban slums that will be covered by the programme.
- (ii) The number of primary schools in these blocks/areas/slums category-wise, namely, government, local body and government-aided.
- (iii) The number of children enrolled in these schools in class I - V.
- (iv) The number of school days month-wise during the current academic year i.e., 1995-96.
- (v) The quantity of foodgrains required per school (in tonnes/quintals) at the rate of 100 grams per child per day. Quantities to be indicated block-wise separately for rice and wheat or of a combination of both. In case distribution of foodgrains as an interim arrangement, the requirement should be based on 3 kgs. per month per child. Distribution of foodgrains would be subject to 80 per cent attendance per month by the child.

- (vi) Linkages between the local bodies/authorities and the RPDS. The arrangements for lifting the foodgrains to be indicated.
- (vii) The names and addresses of the DRDAs.
- (viii) In case arrangements are readily available for preparation and distribution of cooked food, the details thereof.'
- (ix) The name of the Department which will be responsible for implementation of the programme.

The State Governments/UTs should furnish to the Department of Education, Government of India monthly attendance figures in classes I to V, district-wise and school-wise.

As the payment for the foodgrains supplied is to be made to the Food Corporation of India by the Department of Education, Government of India, the state/UTs should furnish to the Department of Education, Government of India monthly statement certifying the quantity of wheat/rice lifted from the FCI godowns. This statement will be cross-examined with the off take figures received from the FCI. They should also furnish the details regarding the quantity of foodgrains transported every month to the schools/villages for reimbursing the cost of transportation to the DRDAs/Nagarpalikas.

Details of expenditure incurred on conversion of foodgrains into cooked/pre-cooked food such as remuneration for cooks/helpers and expenditure on construction of kitchen sheds, wherever necessary, may be reported to the Ministry of Rural Development through proper channels for purpose of their coverage under the poverty alleviation programme of that Ministry.

The programme has commenced in all the State/UTs. Six states viz., Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu and the UT of Pondicherry are providing cooked meals. In Delhi, processed food (sweet bread) is being supplied through Modern Food Industries. The rest of the states and UTs are distributing foodgrains. During 1995-96, 378 districts, 2499 blocks, 2.25 lakh schools and 3.35 crore children have been covered with an annual expenditure of Rs.441.21 crore. In 1996-97, the scheme has been extended to 4426 blocks, covering 5.54 crore children. The revised outlay for 1996-97 is Rs.1050.00 crore. According to the available information, 75.6 per cent of foodgrains allocated in 1995-97 have been lifted by States/UTs.

The scheme is in operation from the last four years and it is expected that the impact of scheme would have been positive enough to have given an appreciable boost to the universalisation of Elementary Education. With this hypothesis, Planning Commission, Government of India had commissioned the Girl Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow to conduct an evaluation study of the scheme in the states of U.P. and Himachal Pradesh. The following objectives have been set to find that to what extent the scheme could achieve success in two States namely Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

1.5 OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the study are as under:

1. To examine the impact of Scheme on increasing enrolment, retention and attendance in the primary schools of U.P. in comparison with Himachal Pradesh.
2. To assess the impact of programme specially on girls and under- privileged students in both the states.
3. To find out the impact of scheme on the nutrition of students in primary classes in both the States.
4. To solicit the views of students, parents, teachers and gram panchayat office bearers about the various aspects of scheme in U.P. and Himachal Pradesh.
5. To suggest policy guidelines for the success of scheme in U.P. and Himachal Pradesh on the basis of lessons from the experiences of both these states.

1.6 METHODOLOGY:

1.6.1 UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY:

The study has been conducted in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh in comparative perspective.

1.6.2 SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

The scheme has been implemented in all the districts of U.P.. and Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, first the districts were selected to reach the ultimate unit of investigation i.e., the primary schools. We have obtained district-wise quantity of foodgrains distributed under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme and number of primary schools in each district of U.P. for the year 1998-99. Thereafter, we divided the quantity of foodgrain thus distributed in each district by the number of primary schools in that district to obtain district-wise as well as of entire U.P., the average quantity of foodgrains distributed per primary school under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme as:

**TOTAL QUANTITY OF FOODGRAINS
DISTRIBUTED IN EACH DISTRICT
AND THE STATE**

**AVERAGE QUANTITY OF FOODGRAINS
DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL
IN EACH DISTRICT AND THE STATE**

**NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
IN EACH DISTRICT AND THE STATE**

After obtaining the average quantity of foodgrains distributed per primary school in each district and in U.P., we have selected one district randomly, by using the Table of Random Number, among the districts in which the average distribution was found to be higher than the average distribution of U.P.

Similarly, one more district was selected among the districts in which the average distribution was lower than the U.P. average. In this way, two districts namely Varanasi and Agra were selected as sample districts in U.P. as shown in the Annexure I. The same methodology was replicated below the district i.e., the selection of blocks and ultimately the primary schools as shown in the Annexures - II and III.

In this way, two districts, four blocks and eight primary schools were selected to study the U.P. situation as shown in the Table - 1.1.. From these schools, 253 students and 243 parents were also interviewed. Similarly, two districts, four blocks and eight primary schools were selected as a sample to study the scheme in Himachal Pradesh. Out of these schools, 160 students and 156 parents were interviewed as shown in Table 1.2. The detailed data have been put in the Annexure - IV, V and VI. Thus, a total of 4 districts, 8 blocks 16 primary schools, 413 students of these primary classes and 399 parents constituted the sample of study representing both states of U.P. and Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE 1.1: SAMPLE OF THE STUDY IN UTTAR PRADESH

DISTRICTS	BLOCKS	PRIMARY SCHOOLS	NO. OF SAMPLE STUDENTS	NO. OF SAMPLE PARENTS
VARANASI	1. Ajara Ji Lines	1. Kachnar	25	17
		2. Beerbhanpur	23	23
	2. Cholapur	1. Cholapur-I	43	40
		2. Mahada	51	50
AGRA	1. Barauli Ahir	1. Kundauli	40	40
		2. Nadanta	30	30
	2. Fatehabad	1. Dev Hans	20	20
		2. Sikrara	21	23
COMBINED		4	8	253
				243

TABLE 1.2: SAMPLE OF THE STUDY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

DISTRICTS	BLOCKS	PRIMARY SCHOOLS	NO. OF SAMPLE STUDENTS	NO. OF SAMPLE PARENTS
UNA	1. Una - I	1. Karaulli	24	24
		2. Palakwah	27	26
	2. Amb	1. Bhalra	20	20
		2. Khadawal	10	10
SIRMAUR	1. Saharan	1. Dhariar Kangar	16	16
		2. Saharan	15	16
	2. Ponta Saheb	1. Surajpur	15	14
		2. Nehalgarh	33	30
COMBINED		4	8	160
				156

1.6.3 DATA ANALYSIS:

The study is based on the primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from the students and parents of the sample schools. The secondary data in time series were obtained from the records of sample schools and the Directorate of Basic Education, Government of U.P. and Himachal Pradesh. Some secondary data were also obtained from the Regional Office of Food Corporation of India (FCI) U.P. and Himachal Pradesh and from the U.P. State Essential Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Lucknow and from the Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Shimla. The detailed guidelines of the scheme were also obtained from the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The data analysis has been carried on computer using MS-Excel 98. The analysis has been carried out on tabular technique.

CHAPTER II

MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND ENROLMENT GROWTH

ONE of the objectives of the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Scheme), hereafter referred to as MMS, as mentioned in the guidelines of scheme, prepared by the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, is to provide acceleration to enrolment at the primary level (Class I to V) by providing 3 kgs of foodgrains per student per month to all those students in Class I to V, subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent.

In this chapter, the impact of Mid-Day Meals Scheme on enrolment growth has been examined by comparing the average annual rates of enrolment growth of boys, girls and total students and across different caste-groups, achieved during 1989-90 to 1993-94 which has been considered as a pre-Mid-Day Meals Scheme period (pre-MMS) and 1994-95 to 1998-99 which is the post Mid-Day Meals Scheme period (post-MMS). Besides, the overall trend has also been examined during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99. The analysis has been carried on the basis of data collected from the sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra districts of U.P. and Una and

Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh. The average annual rate of growth has been computed by using the *following formula:*

$$r = \left[AntiLog \left\{ \frac{\sum LogP_t - \sum LogP_o}{\sum t} \right\} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

Where r = is the average annual rate of growth,

$$\sum LogP_t = LogX_1 + X_2 + LogX_n$$

$$\sum LogP_o = nxLogX_1$$

$$\sum t = n \left(\frac{n-1}{2} \right)$$

III.1 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN ENROLMENT: VARANASI DISTRICT

THE average annual rates of growth in enrolment from Class -I to V of sample primary schools of Varanasi district were computed for the period 1989-90 to 1993-94 which has been considered as Pre-MMS period and from 1994-95 to 1998-99 which has been reckoned as the Post-MMS period. The analysis

has been carried to assess the impact of MMS Programme on enrolment growth at the primary education level.

**TABLE II.1 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL
VARANASI DISTRICT**

CLASS	PRE-MMS PERIOD			POST-MMS PERIOD			TOTAL PERIOD		
	1989-90 to 1993-94			1994-95 to 1998-99			1989-90 to 1998-99		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I	1.63	3.82	2.37	2.41	2.24	2.35	2.02	2.31	2.45
II	2.00	3.61	2.53	2.34	2.73	2.82	2.06	3.88	2.66
III	1.76	3.53	2.33	1.95	2.46	2.13	2.04	3.84	2.63
IV	1.69	2.25	1.86	1.64	3.98	2.35	1.76	2.43	1.96
V	0.88	0.37	0.74	1.08	3.66	1.80	0.77	1.45	0.97
TOTAL (I TO V)	1.60	2.83	1.99	1.89	3.16	2.31	1.73	3.05	2.16

N B : The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included enrolment + repeaters + new entrants

Source: Based on the Annexure - VII.

The statistical analysis as shown in Table - II.1 indicates that average annual rate of growth in the enrolment of boys, girls and total students (Class I to V) has been 1.89 per cent, 3.16 per cent and 2.31 respectively during the post-MMS period in comparison with 1.60 per cent, 2.83 per cent and 1.99 per cent respectively in pre-MMS period and 1.73 per cent, 3.05 per cent and 2.16 per cent respectively during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99. The annual growth in enrolment of boys, girls and total students also showed increased

rates at each class level during the MMS as against pre-MMS period, except of girls in Class I, II and III and boys of Class IV.

Thus, it became evident that growth in enrolment at primary level in Varanasi district of U.P. became better during MMS Years in comparison with pre-MMS years. However, the increase in the rate of growth between these two periods is not evident to be significant because the rate of increase has been only by 0.29, 0.33 and 0.32 percentage points between both the periods in the enrolment of boys, girls and total students respectively.

The table also showed that the average annual rate of increase in girls enrolment was higher than the boys enrolment during both the period. The girls-boys differential in enrolment growth has been by 1.23 per cent point in Pre-MMS years, which marginally increased to 1.27 percentage points during the later period. The trend that the enrolment of girls increased at faster rate than of boys reflected from Class I to IV during pre-MMS period and in Class-II to V during post-MMS years.

Thus, the computation of annual growth rates in enrolment of sample primary classes of Varanasi district of U.P. indicated that the average annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students despite being better during the programme years, has not been found to be significant. Hence, it becomes difficult to ascertain here the impact of MMS Programme on enrolment growth at primary level in Varanasi district.

The general trend of higher annual increase in girls enrolment in comparison with boys enrolment has been a feature of primary education in the district and this differential sharpened slightly during the programme years.

II.2 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN ENROLMENT: AGRA DISTRICT:

The average annual growth in enrolment in sample primary schools of Agra district of U.P. have been computed to examine the changes in enrolment during MMS years. The results have been presented in Table II.2.

The table showed that the annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students has been 5.60 per cent, 4.86 per cent and 5.34 per cent respectively during the MMS-period in comparison with 2.68 per cent, 3.17 per cent and 2.87 per cent respectively in pre-MMS period and 4.59 per cent, 4.66 per cent and 4.62 per cent respectively during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99. The annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students also showed increased rates at each class level during the MMS period as against pre-MMS period except of boys in Class-I, girls in Class-IV and total students of Class-I of post-MMS period.

Thus, it became evident that growth in enrolment at primary level in Agra district of U.P. has been better during the MMS period. The rate of increase has been by 2.92, 1.69 and 2.47 percentage points between the two periods in the enrolment of boys, girls and total students respectively.

TABLE II.2 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH IN ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: AGRA DISTRICT

CLASS	PRE-MMS PERIOD			POST-MMS PERIOD			TOTAL PERIOD		
	1989-90 to 1993-94			1994-95 to 1998-99			1989-90 to 1998-99		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I	5.60	6.16	5.45	4.10	7.45	5.31	6.60	6.78	6.72
II	2.69	1.69	2.37	3.29	7.90	4.98	6.15	6.38	6.25
III	3.36	4.73	3.87	11.68	5.02	9.24	4.81	4.37	4.67
IV	1.18	2.97	1.89	4.03	-0.04	2.37	2919	2.99	2.51
V	-0.77	1.04	-0.01	5.65	1.62	4.00	1.60	1.77	1.68
TOTAL (I TO V)	2.68	3.17	2.87	5.60	4.86	5.34	4.59	4.66	4.62

N.B.: The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new enterants.

Source: Based on the Annexure - VIII.

The above table also showed that the average annual rate of increase in girls' enrolment has been higher than the boys' enrolment during the pre-MMS Years by 0.49 percentage points. However, the trend appears to have reversed during the post-MMS period when boys' enrolment increased by 0.74 percentage points than of girls. At the class level, no definite trend in enrolment growth of boys' vis-à-vis girls was evident.

Thus, the computation of annual growth rates in enrolment at primary classes in Agra district of U.P. indicated that the annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students has been better during the programme years. However when these growth rates were viewed in comparison with growth rates of Varanasi district, it became clear that primary education of Agra district which is one of the developed districts of U.P., attained better growth during the pre-MMS as well as post-MMS period. Therefore, it is difficult to ascertain here again that to what extent the MMS programme provided boost to enrolment growth of primary education in Agra district which was already moving fast on the track of enrolment growth in its primary education.

The trend of higher annual increase in girls' enrolment as against boys was evident during pre-MMS years. It was reversed during the post-MMS period. However, the growth in girls' enrolment has been found to be marginally better than of boys during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99.

II.3 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN ENROLMENT: UTTAR PRADESH

The enrolment from Class - I to V in sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra districts was added and the annual growth rates were computed as done earlier. The exercise has been carried out to assess the impact of MMS Programme on enrolment growth in primary education at the combined level of both the districts, which may be considered to represent the scenario of U.P. The results have been placed in Table II.3.

TABLE II.3 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH IN ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: UTTAR PRADESH

CLASS	PRE-MMS PERIOD			POST-MMS PERIOD			TOTAL PERIOD		
	1989-90 to 1993-94			1994-95 to 1998-99			1989-90 to 1998-99		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I	2.51	4.14	3.07	2.86	3.68	3.15	3.08	4.20	2.47
II	2.17	3.17	2.50	2.59	4.91	3.40	2.99	4.56	3.53
III	2.09	3.82	2.66	4.10	3.07	3.75	2.65	3.97	3.09
IV	1.61	2.43	1.87	2.08	2.95	2.36	1.84	2.57	2.07
V	0.60	0.55	0.59	1.85	3.12	2.26	0.92	1.54	1.12
TOTAL (I TO V)	1.82	2.91	2.18	2.73	3.61	3.03	2.33	3.46	2.71

N.B.: *The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.*

Source: Based on the Annexure - IX

It reflected from the above table that the average annual rates of growth in enrolment of boys, girls and total students were found to be 2.73 per cent, 3.61 per cent and 3.03 per cent respectively during post-MMS period in comparison with 1.82 per cent, 2.91 per cent and 2.18 per cent respectively during pre-MMS years and 2.33 per cent, 3.46 per cent and 2.71 per cent respectively during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99. The annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students also showed increasing trend at each class level during post-MMS period in comparison with pre-MMS period except of girls in Class I and III.

Thus, the rate of growth in enrolment at primary education level in Uttar Pradesh was evident to have become faster during MMS years in comparison with pre-MMS years. However, the increase in the rates of growth between two periods has been only by 0.91, 0.70 and 0.85 percentage points which were not substantial enough to have resulted due to the impact of MMS Programme.

The table also showed that the average annual rate of increase in girls' enrolment has been found to be better than of the boys in U.P. during both the periods. The boys-girls enrolment differential has been by 0.88 points during post-MMS period in comparison with 1.09 points in pre-MMS period. The differential has been by 1.13 points during the period 1989-90 to 1998-99. Such trend was also evident at class level except in Class III during 1994-95 to 1998-99.

Thus, the analysis of growth rates in enrolment at primary education level of Varanasi and Agra districts considered together, which may be taken as to represent the general situation to U.P., indicated that rates of increase have become faster in recent years but these are not significant changes. Therefore, the impact of MMS programme in boosting enrolment is difficult to ascertain. It is so also when many other programmes to boost Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) like DPEP is going on in the State and some natural growth in enrolment also results due to increase in the population of school-age children.

III.4 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN ENROLMENT: UNA DISTRICT

The average annual growth in enrolment at primary classes of sample primary schools of Una district of Himachal Pradesh was calculated for the two sub-periods and entire duration to assess the impact of MMS as done earlier. The results have been shown in Table II.4

The table showed that average annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students has been 2.96 per cent, 2.45 per cent and 2.72 per cent respectively during the post-MMS period in comparison with 2.31 per cent, 2.06 per cent and 2.19 per cent respectively in pre-MMS years and 2.57 per cent, 2.40 per cent and 2.48 per cent respectively during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99. The enrolment of boys, girls and total students also showed increasing rates at each class level during the MMS years in comparison with the pre-MMS period except of girls in Class-III.

Thus, it becomes evident that growth in enrolment at primary education level in Una district of Himachal Pradesh has been faster during MMS years in comparison with pre-MMS years. However, the increase in the rate of growth between two periods has been by 0.65 points, 0.39 points and 0.53 in the enrolment of boys, girls and total students which seems to be not significant in view of various programmes, including MMS, being implemented to increase enrolment at primary level in the district.

TABLE II.4 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH IN ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: UNA DISTRICT

CLASS	PRE-MMS PERIOD			POST-MMS PERIOD			TOTAL PERIOD		
	1989-90 to 1993-94			1994-95 to 1998-99			1989-90 to 1998-99		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I	3.42	3.26	3.35	3.82	3.61	3.73	3.56	2.17	2.91
II	2.62	2.34	2.48	3.74	3.12	3.45	3.43	2.49	2.98
III	2.29	2.24	2.27	2.59	2.06	2.34	2.05	2.90	2.46
IV	1.62	1.18	1.37	2.42	1.99	2.21	1.70	2.38	2.04
V	1.49	1.12	1.31	1.93	1.38	1.66	1.91	1.99	1.95
TOTAL (I TO V)	2.31	2.06	2.19	2.96	2.45	2.72	2.57	2.40	2.48

N.B.: The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new enterants.

Source: Based on the Annexure - X

The table further showed that the growth in enrolment of boys has been somewhat better than of girls during the pre and post MMS period as well as during the entire period. The increase in boys enrolment vis-à-vis girls was higher by 0.25 points during pre-MMS period which improved to 0.51 points in post-MMS period. Such pattern was also evident at class level.

Thus, the average annual increase in enrolment at primary education level in Una district of Himachal Pradesh has been found to be better in post-MMS years in comparison with the pre-MMS years. However, this growth appeared

to be not significant. Hence, it becomes difficult to ascertain the impact of MMS in increasing enrolment in the district. The inference seems to gain ground in view of several other programmes being implemented to expand primary education.

The pattern of higher annual increase in boy's enrolment in comparison with girls has been one of the characteristics of primary education in the district. This feature has become slightly more apparent during the MMS years.

II.5 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN ENROLMENT: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

The average annual increase in enrolment at primary classes of Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh was also calculated to assess the impact of MMS on enrolment growth. The analysis has been shown in Table II.5.

The table showed annual increase of 4.12 per cent, 4.39 per cent and 4.25 per cent in enrolment of boys, girls and total students respectively during the post-MMS period as against 2.62 per cent, 2.97 per cent and 2.79 per cent in pre-MMS years and 3.57 per cent, 3.30 per cent and 3.44 per cent respectively during the entire period. The annual change in enrolment of boys, girls and total students' also showed increasing pattern at most of the class levels.

**TABLE II.5 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH IN ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL:
SIRMAUR DISTRICT**

CLASS	PRE-MMS PERIOD			POST-MMS PERIOD			TOTAL PERIOD		
	1989-90 to 1993-94			1994-95 to 1998-99			1989-90 to 1998-99		
	BOYS	GIrls	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrls	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrls	TOTAL
I	2.31	2.31	2.32	4.95	4.32	4.65	4.78	2.73	3.71
II	2.53	4.01	3.26	4.82	4.88	4.85	2.69	3.71	3.20
III	2.72	2.48	2.60	3.97	3.85	3.93	3.16	3.24	3.21
IV	2.11	3.02	2.49	3.04	4.09	4.42	2.98	3.64	3.25
V	3.55	3.24	3.43	3.73	4.76	4.16	4.21	3.37	3.85
TOTAL I TO V	2.62	2.97	2.79	4.12	4.39	4.25	3.57	3.30	3.44

N.B.: The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new enterants.

Source: Based on the Annexure - XII

Thus, the enrolment of boys, girls and total students in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh increased annually by 1.50 points, 1.42 points and 1.46 points during the MMS period which appeared to be a better growth, if viewed in comparison with the increase observed in other districts earlier.

The table further showed that the enrolment of girls in comparison with the boys increased at faster rate though marginally during both the period. But the difference appears to have narrowed down during the later period.

because the gap was by 0.35 points during the pre-MMS period which declined to 0.27 point in MMS-period. Besides, the annual increase in boys' enrolment was found to be higher by 0.27 points than of girls when enrolment growth is calculated during the period of 1989-90 to 1998-99.

Thus, the enrolment growth at primary education level in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh seems to have got acceleration during MMS years. The district also appeared not to have much differentials in boys and girls enrolment.

III.6 GROWTH OF ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: HIMACHAL PRADESH

As done in case of Uttar Pradesh, the enrolment data of Una and Sirmaur districts were added to compute the annual growth to obtain the scenario of Himachal Pradesh. The results have been shown in Table II.6.

The analysis showed that average increase per annum in enrolment of boys, girls and total students has been 3.65 per cent, 3.65 per cent and 3.53 per cent respectively in Post-MMS period as against 2.46 per cent, 2.49 per cent and 2.48 per cent during pre-MMS period and 3.07 per cent, 2.84 per cent and 2.95 per cent respectively during the entire period. The increase in growth rates of boys, girls and total students was also evident at each class level during post-MMS period as compared to the pre-MMS years.

**TABLE II.6: AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH IN ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL:
HIMACHAL PRADESH**

CLASS	PRE-MMS PERIOD			POST-MMS PERIOD			TOTAL PERIOD		
	1988-90 to 1993-94			1994-95 to 1998-99			1988-90 to 1998-99		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I	2.88	2.75	2.82	4.40	4.01	4.22	4.17	2.48	3.33
II	2.57	3.16	2.86	4.77	4.01	4.40	3.07	3.10	3.09
III	2.49	2.36	2.43	3.27	2.99	3.14	2.59	3.08	2.83
IV	1.81	1.94	1.88	2.74	2.88	2.81	2.35	2.91	2.61
V	2.50	2.03	2.29	2.87	2.88	2.87	3.06	2.59	2.84
TOTAL (I TO V)	2.46	2.49	2.48	3.65	3.65	3.53	3.07	2.84	2.95

N.B.: The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new enterants.

Source: Based on the Annexure - XII

Thus, the annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students at primary education level in Himachal Pradesh has been by 1.19 points, 1.16 points and 1.05 points during the MMS period which is a better outcome in comparison with results obtained in case of sample districts of Uttar Pradesh. The table also showed that there are negligible differentials in boys-girls enrolment.

The above analysis pointed out that the annual increase in enrolment of boys, girls and total students has been better during post-MMS period at the combined level of both districts of Himachal Pradesh. The primary education system of the state does not seem to have much difference between boys and girls enrolment.

III.7 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN ENROLMENT: COMPARISON OF UTTAR PRADESH WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

The above analysis has highlighted the fact that in the state of Uttar Pradesh enrolment growth during the MMS period has not been fast enough to be considered as an acceleration of the MMS programme while somewhat better results could be available in case of Himachal Pradesh. We have subtracted the growth rates in enrolment of boys, girls and total students of Uttar Pradesh from that of Himachal Pradesh in order to get an idea that among these two states which state showed better performance. The results of this exercise have been presented in Table II.7.

It became clear from the table that the growth performance of Uttar Pradesh in its primary education has not been better than that of Himachal Pradesh in pre-MMS, post-MMS period and entire duration of 1989-90 to 1998-99. It is the Himachal Pradesh, the analysis showed, which did experience higher annual growth in enrolment of boys, girls and total students at its primary

level. Only the growth in girls' enrolment during pre-MMS period and entire period has been found to be better in U.P. than of Himachal Pradesh. However, the analysis suggested that after 1994-95 i.e., the starting year of MMS programme, growth in girls' enrolment in Himachal Pradesh has been fast enough to be surpassing the growth rate of girls' enrolment in U.P.

TABLE II.7: FIGURES SHOWING PERCENTAGE GAINS IN ENROLMENT GROWTH BETWEEN UTTAR PRADESH AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

PERIOD	UTTAR PRADESH	HIMACHAL PRADESH
Pre-MMS Period		0.64
Boys	--	
Girls	0.42	--
TOTAL	--	0.30
Post-MMS Period		0.92
Boys	--	
Girls	--	0.04
TOTAL	--	0.50
Total Period		0.74
Boys	--	
Girls	0.62	--
TOTAL	--	0.23

Source: Based on Table II.3 and II.6.

It is our observation in the field that among the new entrants at Class-I, boys-girls differential was not much evident in Himachal Pradesh. In the State of U.P., such difference is still seems to persisting though it showed a narrowing trend.

II.8 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT: VARANASI DISTRICT

The average annual rates of growth in enrolment of scheduled castes (SCs), other backward castes (OBC's) Minorities and General Castes (GC's) students at primary level (Class I to V) of the sample primary schools of Varanasi district, U.P. were calculated for the pre and post Mid-day Meals Scheme period and total period to assess the impact of MMS on the caste-wise enrolment growth. The results have been shown in Table II.8.

TABLE II.8 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: VARANASI DISTRICT

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD	POST-MMS PERIOD	TOTAL PERIOD
	1989-90 TO 1993-94	1994-95 TO 1998-99	1989-90 TO 1998-99
SCHEDULED CASTES	2.30	3.50	3.07
OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	1.81	1.92	1.86
MINORITIES	1.36	1.60	1.42
GENERAL CASTES	4.53	4.53	4.53
TOTAL	1.99	2.31	2.16

NB: The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.

Source: Based on the Annexure - XII

The table showed that during the five years of pre-MMS period, enrolment of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students increased at the rate of 2.30 per cent, 1.81 per cent, 1.36 per cent and 4.53 per cent per annum respectively while the same were found to be 3.50 per cent, 1.92 per cent, 1.60 per cent and 4.53 per cent during MMS period and 3.07 per cent, 1.86 per cent, 1.42 per cent and 4.53 per cent respectively during the period 1998-90 to 1998-99.

Thus, the average annual rate of increase in enrolment of general caste students at primary level was found to be highest followed by the rate of growth in enrolment of SC, OBC and minority students during the pre and post MMS period as well during the entire period.

It reflected that the growth in enrolment of SC students between pre and post MMS period has been maximum by 1.20 points while OBC and minority students did show negligible growth and GC students have recorded no change in enrolment growth during both periods.

III.9 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT: AGRA DISTRICT

The annual rates of growth in enrolment of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students at primary level of sample primary schools of Agra district were computed in Table II.9 as done in case of Varanasi districts.

It became evident from the table that during five years of pre-MMS period, enrolment of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students increased at the annual rate of 3.77 per cent, 2.72 per cent, 1.29 per cent and 4.53 per cent respectively. These growth rates increased to 4.78 per cent, 5.69 per cent, 1.95 per cent and 6.49 per cent respectively during the MMS years and 6.18 per cent, 4.08 per cent, 3.36 per cent and 8.86 per cent respectively during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99.

TABLE II.9 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: AGRA DISTRICT

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD	POST-MMS PERIOD	TOTAL PERIOD
	1989-90 TO 1993-94	1994-95 TO 1998-99	1989-90 TO 1998-99
SCHEDULED CASTES	3.77	4.78	6.18
OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.72	5.69	4.08
MINORITIES	1.29	1.95	3.36
GENERAL CASTES	4.53	6.49	8.86
TOTAL	2.87	5.34	4.62

NB: *The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.*

Source: Based on the Annexure - XIV.

Thus, the annual growth in enrolment of general caste students was highest followed by the growth of scheduled castes, other backward castes and Minority students during the pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme period. During the Mid-Day Meals Scheme Years, the general castes students recorded highest growth followed by the other backward castes, scheduled castes and Minority students.

It also reflected from the table that OBC students recorded maximum growth by 2.97 points between pre- and post MMS period in comparison with 1.96 points by GC, 1.01 points by SC and 0.66 points by the minority students.

II.10 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT: UTTAR PRADESH

The caste-wise enrolment data of Varanasi and Agra districts were aggregated and the compound rates of growth were computed for the pre, post and entire period to arrive at the scenario emerging out of the aggregate level of both the districts. The analysis may be considered to represent the situation of Uttar Pradesh. The analysis has been shown in Table II.10.

TABLE II.10 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL UTTAR PRADESH

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD	POST-MMS PERIOD	TOTAL PERIOD
	1989-90 TO 1993-94	1994-95 TO 1998-99	1989-90 TO 1998-99
SCHEDULED CASTES	2.61	3.82	3.77
OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.01	2.81	2.36
MINORITIES	1.36	1.69	1.47
GENERAL CASTES	4.53	5.07	5.87
TOTAL	2.18	3.03	2.71

NB: *The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.*

Source: Based on the Annexure - XV.

The table showed that the rates of growth in the enrolment of scheduled castes, other backward castes, Minority and general caste students per annum have been found to be higher during the Mid-Day Meals Scheme years in comparison with the preceding five years before the scheme. However, the difference between the two periods has been by 1.21 points, 0.80 points, 0.33 points and 0.54 points in enrolment growth of SC, OBC, and Minority and GC students. All this suggested that there has not been noticeable increase in enrolment at primary level students of different castes in U.P. which could be interpreted as an outcome of the impact of Mid-Day Meals Programme in the state.

II.11 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT: UNA DISTRICT

In Una district of Himachal Pradesh, as reflects from Table II.11, the annual rate of increase in enrolment of SC students was 3.60 per cent during pre-MMS years which declined to 3.15 per cent during post-MMS years, though it was 4.15 per cent annual during the period 1989-90 to 1998-99. In case of OBC and GC students, rates were 1.56 per cent and 2.08 per cent during pre-MMS years and this increased to 1.94 per cent and 3.37 per cent respectively during post-MMS period. The enrolment growth of OBC and GC students has been 1.44 per cent and 2.61 per cent respectively during 1989-90 to 1998-99.

Hence, the annual rate of increase in enrolment of SC students declined by 0.45 points during the post MMS period while it increased by 0.38 points and 1.29 points in case of OBC and GC students between pre and post MMS period. Therefore, it apparently looks that except in case of general caste students, the Mid-Day Meals Scheme did not seem to have influenced the enrolment growth of SC and OBC students in the district.

TABLE II.11: AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: UNA DISTRICT

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD	POST-MMS PERIOD	TOTAL PERIOD
	1989-90 TO 1993-94	1994-95 TO 1998-99	1989-90 TO 1998-99
SCHEDULED CASTES	3.60	3.15	4.15
OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	1.56	1.94	1.44
MINORITIES	--	--	--
GENERAL CASTES	2.08	3.37	2.61
TOTAL	2.19	2.72	2.48

NB: *The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.*

Source: Based on the Annexure - XVI.

II.12 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

As shown in Table II.12, the annual rates of growth in enrolment of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students of Sirmaur district have appeared to be better than that of Una district. The enrolment increased at the annual rate of 4.57 per cent, 3.66 per cent, 1.78 per cent and 2.25 per cent of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students respectively during 1989-90 to 1993-94 while the increase has

been by 5.18 per cent, 4.28 per cent, 1.87 per cent and 4.17 per cent during 1994-95 - 1998-99 respectively. Though, during the entire period of 1989-90 to 1998-99, the annual growth has been 5.32 per cent, 5.44 per cent, 1.93 per cent and 2.74 per cent in enrolment of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students.

TABLE II.12 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD	POST-MMS PERIOD	TOTAL PERIOD
	1989-90 TO 1993-94	1994-95 TO 1998-99	1989-90 TO 1998-99
SCHEDULED CASTES	4.57	5.18	5.32
OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	3.66	4.28	5.44
MINORITIES	1.78	1.87	1.93
GENERAL CASTES	2.25	4.17	2.74
TOTAL	2.79	4.25	3.44

NB: *The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.*

Source: *Based on the Annexure - XVII.*

It becomes evident from the analysis that the rate of increase in enrolment of SC, OBC and Minority students has been by 0.60 points, 0.62 points and 0.09 points respectively as against GC students whose enrolment increased by 1.92 points.

II.13 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT: HIMACHAL PRADESH

As done in case of Uttar Pradesh, the caste-wise enrolment data of sample primary schools of Una and Sirmaur districts were added in Table II.13 to compute the annual growth rates to obtain the situation of caste-wise enrolment growth at the combined level of both the districts. The results may be seen to show the situation of caste-wise enrolment growth in Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE II.13 : AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH IN CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL: HIMACHAL PRADESH

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD	POST-MMS PERIOD	TOTAL PERIOD
	1989-90 TO 1993-94	1994-95 TO 1998-99	1989-90 TO 1998-99
SCHEDULED CASTES	4.08	4.19	4.74
OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	1.90	2.42	2.15
MINORITIES	1.78	1.87	1.93
GENERAL CASTES	2.18	3.85	2.69
TOTAL	2.48	3.53	2.95

NB: The growth has been calculated on the basis of gross enrolment which included new enrolment + repeaters + new entrants.

Source: Based on the Annexure - XVIII.

It reflected from the table that the enrolment of SC, OBC and Minority students in Himachal Pradesh experienced a nominal growth during the Mid-Day Meals Scheme period. Only the enrolment of GC students increased by 1.67 points during the Mid-Day Meals Scheme years. Thus, the Mid-Day Meals Scheme seems to have negligible impact on enrolment growth of SC, OBC and minority students of the state.

II.14 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT GROWTH: A COMPARISON OF UTTAR PRADESH WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

The analysis carried above indicated the fact that the caste-wise enrolment growth during the pre, post and entire period of ten years in Himachal Pradesh has been better in comparison with that of Uttar Pradesh. In order to get an idea that between these two states which one has experienced a higher growth in comparison with the other in caste-wise enrolment during pre, post and the entire period, the percentage points differences between two states were calculated in Table II.14, to obtain the percentage point gain of the state.

It reflected from the table that the state of U.P. gained by 0.11 points and 2.35 points in the growth of OBC and GC students during pre-MMS period while

Himachal Pradesh was gainer in enrolment growth of SC and Minority students. This trend was also evident during post-MMS period and the entire period. However, the gains of Himachal Pradesh in enrolment growth of SC and Minority students declined during post MMS period. The gain of Uttar Pradesh in enrolment growth of OBC students increased but that of GC students declined in post MMS period.

TABLE II.14 : FIGURES SHOWING PERCENTAGE POINTS GAINS IN ENROLMENT GROWTH BETWEEN UTTAR PRADESH AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

CASTES	PRE-MMS PERIOD		POST-MMS PERIOD		TOTAL PERIOD	
	1989-90 to 1993-94		1994-95 to 1996-97		1989-90 to 1996-97	
	U.P.	H.P.	U.P.	H.P.	U.P.	H.P.
Scheduled Castes	-	1.47	-	0.31	-	0.97
Other Backward Castes	0.11	-	0.39	-	0.21	-
Minorities	-	0.42	-	0.18	-	0.46
General Castes	2.35	-	1.22	-	3.18	-

Source: Based on Table II.10 and II.13.

The above analysis, thus, showed that in sample districts of Uttar Pradesh as well as Himachal Pradesh noticeable impact of Mid-Day Meals Scheme on enrolment growth of boys, girls and total students and across the students of different caste-groups at primary level could not be evident. The Himachal Pradesh showed better boost to enrolment growth in comparison with that of Uttar Pradesh.

MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL

THE objective of Mid-Day Meals Scheme is also to increase the retention of students, besides providing boost to enrolment at primary level. The scheme envisages that larger number of school-age children will not only be attracted to seek admission in primary classes by the provision of Mid-Day Meals but they will also complete the five years of primary education. In this chapter, retention of students at primary education level has been computed for the pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods on the basis of data obtained from sample primary school of Varanasi and Agra districts of U.P. and Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh. The exercise has been done to observe the changes in retention between these two periods.

The retention of Class-I students enrolled in 1989-90 was observed till Class-V in 1993-94, the year of completion of primary education of Class - I students enrolled in 1989-90. Similarly, the retention of Class-I students enrolled in 1994-95 was followed till Class-V of 1998-99. The first situation represented

Class-I, without considering new entrants and repeaters. The wastage rates have also been computed by subtracting the retention from enrolment, which has been considered as 100.

III.1 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES: VARANASI DISTRICT

The retention rates at five year interval starting from Class I in 1989-90 and ending at Class-V in 1993-94 revealed that around 77 per cent of boys, 67 per cent of girls and 74 per cent of total students remained upto Class-V. In this way, 23 per cent of boys, 33 per cent of girls and 26 per cent of total students who were enrolled in Class-I during 1989-90 could not reach to Class-V and dropped in between Class I and V. The percentage of girls who remained upto Class-V was lower than of boys by around ten percentage points. This was the situation of retention at primary level during pre-Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Furthermore, the table III.1.1 showed that over a period of time (1994-95 to 1998-99), when Mid-Day Meals Scheme was introduced, the percentages of children who reached Class-V had improved. During this period, out of the children who were enrolled in Class -I during 1994-95, 78 per cent for boys, 75 per cent of girls and 70 of total students reached in Class-V during 1998-99. In this period also, percentage of girls who reached upto Class-V was found to be lower than their counterparts.

TABLE III.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: VARANASI DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1989-90)	191	95	286	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1990-91)	178	86	264	93.19	90.53	92.31	6.81	9.47	7.69
III (1991-92)	169	78	247	88.48	82.11	86.36	11.52	17.89	13.64
IV (1992-93)	155	69	224	81.15	72.63	78.32	18.85	27.37	21.68
V (1993-94)	147	64	211	76.96	67.37	73.78	23.04	32.63	26.22

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

TABLE III.1.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: VARANASI DISTRICT^{INTL}

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1994-95)	211	113	324	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1995-96)	200	102	302	94.79	90.26	93.21	5.21	9.74	6.79
III (1996-97)	189	93	282	89.57	82.30	87.04	10.43	17.70	12.96
IV (1997-98)	175	84	259	82.94	74.34	79.94	17.06	25.66	20.06
V (1998-99)	164	79	243	77.72	69.91	75.00	22.28	30.09	25.00

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

Thus, the retention of children at primary level in Varanasi district appears to have improved during Mid-Day Meal Scheme years but this improvement is marginal especially in case of boys whose retention increased only by 0.76 points during both the periods. In case of girls, it increased by 2.54 points. Keeping in view ten years of period considered here, such improvements in retention rates seem not to be significant.

III.2 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES: AGRA DISTRICT

The retention rates at sample primary schools of Agra district have been computed and presented in Table III.2 and Table III.2.1.

The retention rates at five year interval starting from Class - I in 1989-90 to Class-V in 1993-94, the pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme period, showed that around 73 per cent of boys, 52 per cent of girls and 65 per cent of total students remained upto Class - V. Thus, 27 per cent of boys, 48 per cent of girls and 35 per cent of total students who were enrolled in Class-I in the year 1989-90 could not reach Class-V and dropped in between Class I and V. The percentage of girls who remained upto Class-V was found to be lower than of boys by around 21 points.

It was further evident from the table III.2.1 that retention rates starting from Class - I in 1994-95 to Class - V in 1998-99, the period of Mid-Day Meals Scheme, have improved to 73 per cent, 56 per cent and 67 per cent of boys,

TABLE III.2 : RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: AGRA DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1989-90)	51	29	80	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1990-91)	45	23	68	88.23	79.31	86.00	11.77	20.69	15.00
III (1991-92)	43	21	64	84.31	72.41	80.00	15.69	27.59	20.00
IV (1992-93)	39	20	59	76.47	68.97	73.75	23.53	31.03	26.25
V (1993-94)	37	15	52	72.55	51.72	65.00	27.45	48.28	35.00

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

TABLE III.2.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEALS SCHEME: AGRA DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I (1994-95)	75	41	116	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1995-96)	67	37	104	89.33	90.24	89.65	10.67	9.76	10.35
III (1996-97)	64	33	97	86.33	80.49	83.62	14.67	19.51	16.38
IV (1997-98)	58	30	88	77.33	73.17	75.86	22.67	26.83	24.14
V (1998-99)	55	23	78	73.33	56.09	67.24	26.67	43.91	32.76

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

girls and total students respectively. The retention of girls who reached to Class-V was found to be lower than of boys. However, the retention differential between boys and girls has narrowed down by 17.24 points during the Mid-Day Meal Scheme period in comparison with 20.83 points during pre-MMS period.

Thus, the retention of students at primary level in Agra district appears to have improved during Mid-Day Meal Scheme period. However, the improvement is not significant especially in case of boys whose retention increased only by 0.78 points between both the periods. The retention of girls increased by 4.37 points and of total students by 2.24 points. These improvements in retention rates in case of Agra district also seem not to be significant in view of time span considered in the analysis.

III.3 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES: UTTAR PRADESH

The retention of students in sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra districts was analysed together to obtain the situation at the combined level of both districts.

The retention rates starting from Class - I in 1989-90 to Class - V in 1993-94 as evident in Table III.3 showed that around 76 per cent of boys, 64 per cent of girls and 72 per cent of total primary students who were enrolled in Class-I

TABLE III.3 : RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: UTTAR PRADESH

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I (1989-90)	242	124	366	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1990-91)	223	109	332	92.15	87.90	90.71	7.85	12.10	9.29
III (1991-92)	212	99	311	87.60	79.84	84.97	12.40	20.16	15.03
IV (1992-93)	194	89	283	80.16	71.77	77.32	19.84	28.23	22.68
V (1993-94)	184	79	263	76.03	63.71	71.86	23.97	36.29	28.14

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of Varanasi and Agra Districts, U.P.

TABLE III.3.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME- UTTAR PRADESH

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1994-95)	286	154	440	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1995-96)	267	139	406	93.35	90.25	92.27	6.65	9.75	7.73
III (1996-97)	253	126	379	88.46	81.82	86.14	11.54	18.18	13.86
IV (1997-98)	233	114	347	81.47	74.03	78.86	18.53	25.97	21.14
V (1998-99)	219	102	321	76.57	66.23	72.95	23.43	33.77	27.05

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of Varanasi and Agra districts of U.P.

in the year 1989-90 reached to Class-V in 1993-94. Thus, the wastage rates of boys, girls and total students came to 24 per cent, 36 per cent and 28 per cent upto Class-V . The retention rate for girls as against boys was lower by 12.32 points.

The retention rates seem to have improved during Mid-Day Meals Scheme period because out of the total students who enrolled in Class - I in 1994-95, 77 per cent of boys, 66 per cent of girls and 73 per cent of total students reached to Class-V in 1998-99. The retention differential between boys-girls also narrowed by 10.34 points during the MMS period.

However, the improvement in retention rates between two periods is by 0.54 points, 2.52 points and 1.09 points in case of boys, girls and total students which appears not to be significant in view of various on-going programmes of universalisation of Elementary Education including Mid-Day Meals Scheme and DPEP, along with long period of time considered in analysis here.

III.4 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES: UNA DISTRICT

The retention rates of students at primary level in sample schools of Una district of Himachal Pradesh have been worked out and presented in Table III.4 and TableI III.4.1.

TABLE III.4 : RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEALS SCHEME: UNA DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I (1989-90)	53	50	103	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1990-91)	50	46	96	94.35	92.00	93.20	5.66	8.00	6.88
III (1991-92)	47	43	90	88.68	86.00	87.38	11.32	14.00	12.62
IV (1992-93)	44	41	85	83.02	82.00	82.52	16.98	18.00	17.48
V (1993-94)	39	36	75	73.58	72.00	72.82	26.42	28.00	27.18

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

TABLE III.4.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: UNA DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIrlS	TOTAL
I (1994-95)	63	53	116	--	--	--	--	--	--
II (1995-96)	60	51	111	96.24	96.22	95.69	4.76	3.78	4.31
III (1996-97)	56	48	104	88.89	90.56	89.65	11.11	9.44	10.35
IV (1997-98)	52	46	98	82.54	86.79	84.48	17.46	13.21	15.52
V (1998-99)	47	43	90	74.60	81.13	77.59	25.4	18.87	22.41

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

The retention rates at the interval of each class, starting from Class-I in 1989-90 to Class-V in 1993-94, pre-Mid Day Meals Years, showed that around 74 per cent of boys, 72 per cent of girls and 73 per cent of total students who sought enrolment in Class-I during 1989-90 could remain upto Class-V in 1993-94. Thus, 26 per cent of boys, 28 per cent of girls and 27 per cent of total students enrolled in Class-I in 1989-90 dropped in between Calss-I and V during 1989-90 to 1993-94.

It reflected from the table III.4.1 that during the years of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the retention of primary students increased to 75 per cent, 81 per cent and 78 per cent in case of boys, girls and total students respectively in the year 1998-99 at Class-V. These students got enrolment in Class-I during 1994-95. The retention of boys was found to be higher than girls by 1.58 points during pre-MMS period while the situation was reversed during post-MMS period when girls retention was higher than of boys by 6.53 points.

Thus, it becomes evident that the retention of students at primary level in Una district of Himachal Pradesh has improved during Mid-Day Meals Scheme. However, the increase in retention of boys is only by 1.02 points, which is not significant keeping in view the time duration and implementation of other primary education development programmes.

III.5 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

The retention rates in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh have been found to be 90 per cent each in case of boys, girls and total students during pre-MMS period. Thus, out of those students who were enrolled in Class-I during 1989-90, only 10 per cent could not reach upto Class-V in 1993-94. No difference was also evident in retention rates of boys and girls.

The situation improved marginally during post-MMS period in which those enrolled in Class-I during 1994-95, 91 per cent of them (boys as well girls) reached to Class V in 1998-99. Thus, retention at primary level in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh was found to be quite high during pre as well as post-MMS period. No significant change was evident at the later period. Besides, retention level of boys and girls was generally similar. The retention rates of boys, girls and total students in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh for the pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods have been shown in Table III.5 and Table III.5.1.

TABLE III.5 : RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: SINHAUR DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1989-90)	50	59	109	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1990-91)	49	57	106	98.00	96.61	97.25	2.00	2.39	2.75
III (1991-92)	47	55.	102	94.00	93.22	93.58	6.00	6.78	6.42
IV (1992-93)	45	63	98	90.00	89.83	89.91	10.00	10.17	10.09
V (1993-94)	45	53	98	90.00	89.83	89.91	10.00	10.17	10.09

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

TABLE III.5.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEALS SCHEME: UNA DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1994-95)	66	66	132	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1995-96)	65	64	129	98.48	96.97	97.73	1.52	3.03	2.27
III (1996-97)	63	63	126	95.45	95.45	95.45	4.55	4.55	4.55
IV (1997-98)	60	61	121	90.91	92.42	91.67	9.09	7.58	8.33
V (1998-99)	60	60	120	90.91	90.91	90.91	9.09	9.09	9.09

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

III.6 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES: HIMACHAL PRADESH

The number of students enrolled in Class-I who reached to Class V in sample primary schools of Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh were added to compute the retention rates at the combined level of both the district.

The results have been shown in Table III.6 and Table III.6.1.

The table showed that retention rates of those students who sought enrolment in Class-I during 1989-90 come to 82 per cent of boys, 82 per cent of girls and 82 per cent of total students at Class-V in 1993-94. In this way, the wastage rate comes to around 18 per cent of the boys, girls and total students. In this period, negligible difference in retention rates of boys and girls is evident.

During the period 1994-95 to 1998-99 when the Mid-Day Meals Programme was in operation, 83 per cent of boys, 87 per cent of girls and 85 per cent of total students enrolled in Class-I during 1994-95, could reach to Class-V in 1998-99.

Thus, in between pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme period, retention in primary level at the combined level of Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh increased by 1.40 points of boys, 4.90 points of girls and 3.08 points of total students.

TABLE III.6 : RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: HIMACHAL PRADESH

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1989-90)	103	109	212	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1990-91)	99	103	202	96.12	94.50	95.28	3.88	5.50	4.72
III (1991-92)	94	98	192	91.26	89.91	90.57	8.74	10.09	9.43
IV (1992-93)	89	94	183	86.41	86.24	86.32	13.59	13.76	13.68
V (1993-94)	84	89	173	81.55	81.66	81.60	18.45	18.35	18.40

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE III.6.1: RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: HIMACHAL PRADESH

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS READING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES			RETENTION RATE			WASTAGE RATE		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
I (1994-95)	129	119	248	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	--
II (1995-96)	125	115	240	96.90	96.64	96.77	3.10	3.36	3.23
III (1996-97)	119	111	230	92.25	93.28	92.74	7.75	6.72	7.26
IV (1997-98)	112	107	219	86.82	89.92	88.31	13.18	10.08	11.69
V (1998-99)	107	103	210	82.95	86.55	84.68	17.05	13.45	15.32

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of Una and Sirmaur districts, Himachal Pradesh.

III.7 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND RETENTION RATES:COMPARISON OF UTTAR PRADESH WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

A comparison of retention rates of U.P. as shown in Tables III.3 and III.3.1 with that Himachal Pradesh as evident in Table III.6 and III.6.1 revealed that retention rates at primary level were much higher in Himachal Pradesh in comparison with the Uttar Pradesh during pre and post Mid-Day Meal Scheme periods. The retention rate of boys who enrolled in Class-I during 1989-90 and reached to Class - V in 1989-90 was higher by 5.55 points in Himachal Pradesh in comparison with the U.P. In the same way, retention of girls and total students during this period was found to be higher by 17.94 points and 9.74 points respectively. During the Mid-Day Meals Scheme period, retention at primary level in Himachal Pradesh increased significantly in comparison with U.P. During this period, retention in Himachal Pradesh increased by 6.38 points of boys, 20.32 points of girls and 11.73 points of total students as against the retention rates of these in U.P.

Thus, the retention of students at primary level in Himachal Pradesh has been found to be quite better in comparison with that of Uttar Pradesh during pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme period.

III.8 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: VARANASI DISTRICT

The caste-wise retention of students at primary level in Varanasi district during pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods has been computed and shown in Table III.7 and Table III.7.1

The retention rates of students enrolled in Class-I during 1989-90 have been found to be 75 per cent of SC students, 78 per cent of OBC students, 55 per cent of minorities and 61 per cent of General Castes students in 1993-94, the year these students reached to Class-V. In this way, around 45 per cent of minority students 39 per cent of general castes students, 25 per cent of Scheduled Castes Students and 22 per cent of other backward castes students dropped out in between Class I and Class - V during 1989-90 to 1993-94 and could not complete primary education during the period of pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme.

The situation seems to have improved during post-Mid Day Meals Scheme but only marginally as retention rates increased to 76 per cent of SC's, 79 per cent of OBC's and 66 per cent of GC's students. The retention of minority students declined to 52 per cent during this period.

TABLE III.7 : Caste-wise Retention Rate at Primary Level during Pre-Mid Day Meal Scheme: Varanasi District

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	48	188	22	28	286
II 1990-91	45	180	16	23	264
III 1991-92	42	171	15	19	247
IV 1992-93	39	155	13	17	224
V 1993-94	36	146	12	17	211

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1990-91	93.75	95.74	72.73	82.14	92.31
III 1991-92	87.50	90.96	68.18	67.86	86.36
IV 1992-93	81.25	82.45	59.09	60.71	78.32
V 1993-94	76.00	77.66	54.55	60.71	73.78

Table III.7 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE					TOTAL
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES		
I 1989-90	--	--	--	--	--	--
II 1990-91	6.25	4.26	27.27	17.86	7.69	
III 1991-92	12.50	9.04	31.18	32.34	13.64	
IV 1992-93	18.75	17.55	40.91	39.29	21.68	
V 1993-94	25.00	22.34	45.45	39.29	26.22	

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District

TABLE III.7.1: CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATE AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: VARANASI DISTRICT

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	54	213	25	32	324
II 1995-96	51	206	19	26	302
III 1996-97	47	196	17	22	282
IV 1997-98	45	177	16	21	259
V 1998-99	41	168	13	21	243

Table III.7.1 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1995-96	94.44	96.71	76.00	81.25	93.21
III 1996-97	87.04	92.02	68.00	68.75	87.04
IV 1997-98	83.33	83.10	64.00	65.63	79.94
V 1998-99	76.93	78.87	52.00	65.83	76.00

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	--	--	--	--	--
II 1995-96	5.56	3.29	24.00	18.75	6.79
III 1996-97	12.96	7.98	32.00	31.25	12.96
IV 1997-98	16.67	16.90	36.00	34.37	20.06
V 1998-99	24.07	21.13	48.00	34.17	25.00

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District

Thus, during the pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme period, wastage rates have been reduced by 0.93 points of SC's, 1.21 points of OBC's and 5.12 points of GC's students during the five year period in primary education of Varanasi district. Moreover, the wastage rate of minority students increased by 2.55 points during both the periods.

III.9 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: AGRA DISTRICT

The caste-wise retention rates of sample primary level students of Agra district during pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods have been calculated and shown in Table III.8 and Table III.8.1.

The tables showed that retention was 50 per cent of SC students and 55 per cent of GC students, 57 per cent of minority and 74 per cent of OBC Students during pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme. These retention rates increased to 59 per cent of SC students, 75 per cent of OBC students, 58 per cent of minority students and 58 per cent of GC students.

Thus, the retention of SC students increased significantly by 9.10 points and of GC students by 3.34 points during both the periods. The increase in retention level of OBC and minority students has been marginal by 0.69 points and 1.19 points respectively in post Mid-Day Meals Scheme period as compared with the pre Mid-Day Meals Scheme period.

TABLE III.8 : Caste-wise retention rate at primary level during pre-mid day meal scheme: Agra district

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	16	46	7	11	80
II 1990-91	13	39	7	9	68
III 1991-92	12	37	6	9	64
IV 1992-93	10	36	5	8	59
V 1993-94	8	34	4	6	52

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	100.0	100.0	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1990-91	81.25	84.78	100.00	81.82	85.00
III 1991-92	75.00	80.43	85.71	81.82	80.00
IV 1992-93	62.50	78.26	71.43	72.73	73.75
V 1993-94	50.00	73.91	57.14	54.55	65.00

Table III.8 Contd...

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE					TOTAL
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES		
I 1989-90	--	--	--	--	--	--
II 1990-91	18.75	15.22	--	18.18	15.00	
III 1991-92	25.00	19.57	14.29	18.18	20.00	
IV 1992-93	37.50	21.74	28.57	27.27	26.25	
V 1993-94	50.00	26.09	42.86	435.45	35.00	

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District.

TABLE III.8.1: CASTE-WISE RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: AGRA DISTRICT

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	22	63	12	19	116
II 1995-96	20	57	10	17	104
III 1996-97	18	55	8	16	97
IV 1997-98	16	52	6	14	88
V 1998-99	13	47	7	11	78

Table III.8.1 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1995-96	90.91	90.48	83.33	89.47	89.66
III 1996-97	81.82	87.30	66.67	84.21	83.62
IV 1997-98	72.73	82.54	50.00	73.68	75.86
V 1998-99	59.10	74.60	58.33	57.89	67.24

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	--	--	--	--	--
II 1995-96	9.09	9.52	16.67	10.53	10.34
III 1996-97	18.18	12.70	33.33	15.79	16.38
IV 1997-98	27.27	17.46	50.00	26.32	24.14
V 1998-99	40.90	25.40	41.67	42.11	32.76

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District.

III.10 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: UTTAR PRADESH

The number of caste-wise students enrolled in Class - I during 1989-90 and 1994-95 and these students reaching to Class - V in 1993-94 and 1989-99 of sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra districts were added together to obtain the situation of retention at the combined level of both districts as shown in Table III.9 and Table III.9.1.

TABLE III.9 : CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATE AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING PRE-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: UTTAR PRADESH

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	64	234	29	39	366
II 1990-91	58	219	23	32	332
III 1991-92	54	208	21	28	311
IV 1992-93	49	191	18	25	283
V 1993-94	44	180	16	23	263

Table III.9 Contd...

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1990-91	90.63	93.59	93.59	79.31	82.05
III 1991-92	84.38	88.89	72.41	71.79	84.97
IV 1992-93	76.56	81.62	62.07	64.10	77.32
V 1993-94	68.75	76.92	55.17	58.97	71.86

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	--	--	--	--	--
II 1990-91	9.37	6.41	20.69	17.95	9.29
III 1991-92	15.62	11.11	22.59	28.21	15.03
IV 1992-93	23.44	18.38	37.93	35.90	22.68
V 1993-94	23.08	23.08	44.83	41.03	28.14

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra Districts, U.P.

TABLE III.9.1: Caste-wise Retention at Primary Level during Post-Mid Day Meal Scheme: UTTAR PRADESH

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	76	276	37	51	440
II 1995-96	71	263	29	43	406
III 1996-97	65	251	25	38	379
IV 1997-98	61	229	22	35	347
V 1998-99	54	215	20	32	321

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1995-96	93.42	95.29	78.38	84.31	92.27
III 1996-97	85.53	90.94	67.57	74.51	86.14
IV 1997-98	80.26	82.97	59.46	68.63	78.86
V 1998-99	71.05	77.90	54.05	62.75	72.95

Table III.9.1 Contd...

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE					TOTAL
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES		
I 1994-95	--	--	--	--	--	--
II 1995-96	6.58	4.71	21.62	15.69	7.73	
III 1996-97	14.47	9.06	32.43	25.49	13.86	
IV 1997-98	19.74	17.03	40.54	31.37	21.14	
V 1998-99	28.95	22.10	45.95	37.25	27.06	

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra Districts, U.P.

The retention rates of Class - I students enrolled in 1989-90 came out to be 69 per cent of SC's, 77 per cent of OBC's, 59 per cent of GC's and 55 per cent of minority students when these students reached Class-V in 1993-94.

The situation refers to pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme period.

During the Mid-Day Meals Scheme years, retention of students increased to 71 per cent, 78 per cent, 63 per cent and 54 per cent in respect of SC, OBC, GC and minority students.

Thus, the retention of GC students increased maximum by 3.78 points, followed by 2.30 points of SC, 1.12 points of minority and 0.98 points of OBC students in comparisons with 1.09 points increase in overall retention level

during pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods at the combined level of both districts of U.P. However, this improvement in retention level seems not to be significant in view of ten years of period considered in the analysis. Besides, many efforts are needed to be put in view of 24 per cent to 48 per cent of wastage rates of SC's and minority students of state still persisting. The situation in case of OBC's and GC's also required serious attention.

III.11 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: UNA DISTRICT

In case of Una district of Himachal Pradesh, caste-wise retention rates of primary level students were computed for the pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods and shown in Table III.10 and Table III.10.1.

TABLE III.10 : CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATE DURING PRE-MID DAY MEALSCHEME: UNA DISTRICT

CLASS/YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	23	38	--	42	103
II 1990-91	21	35	--	40	96
III 1991-92	19	33	--	38	90
IV 1992-93	18	30	--	37	85
V 1993-94	15	26	--	34	75

Table III.10 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	100.00	100.00	--	100.00	100.00
II 1990-91	91.30	92.11	--	95.24	93.20
III 1991-92	82.61	86.84	--	90.48	87.38
IV 1992-93	78.26	78.95	--	88.10	82.52
V 1993-94	65.22	68.42	--	80.95	72.82

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	--	--	--	--	--
II 1990-91	8.70	7.89	--	4.76	6.80
III 1991-92	17.39	13.16	--	9.52	12.62
IV 1992-93	21.74	21.05	--	11.90	17.48
V 1993-94	34.78	31.58	--	19.05	27.18

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District.

TABLE III.10.1: CASTE-WISE RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: UNA DISTRICT

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	27	42	--	47	116
II 1995-96	26	40	--	45	111
III 1996-97	25	37	--	42	104
IV 1997-98	23	37	--	42	98
V 1998-99	20	32	--	38	90

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1995-96	96.30	95.24	--	95.74	95.69
III 1996-97	92.59	88.10	--	89.36	89.66
IV 1997-98	85.19	83.33	--	85.11	84.48
V 1998-99	74.07	76.19	--	80.85	77.59

Table III.10.1

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	--	--	--	--	--
II 1995-96	3.70	4.76	--	4.26	4.31
III 1996-97	7.41	11.90	--	10.64	10.34
IV 1997-98	14.81	16.67	--	14.89	15.52
V 1998-99	25.93	23.81	--	19.15	22.41

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District.

It is evident from Table III.10 that the retention of GC students during Class-I (1989-90) to Class-V (1993-94) was highest i.e., about 81 per cent as against 68 per cent of OBC and 65 per cent of SC students during pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme.

While the retention level of SC and OBC students increased to 74 per cent and 76 per cent respectively during post-Mid Day Meals Scheme years, it declined marginally by 0.10 points in case of GC students.

Therefore, despite 8.85 points and 7.77 points increase in the retention level of SC and OBC students during post Mid-Day Meals period, wastage of around one-fourth of these students during primary education still needed to be reduced.

III.12 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

The caste-wise retention rates in sample primary schools of Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh have been found to be higher as compared with the retention level observed in Una district.

It is evident from Table III.11 that out of total students enrolled in Class-I during 1989-90, 95 per cent of general castes, 82 per cent of minorities, 86 per cent of scheduled castes and 75 per cent of other backward caste students reached Class-V in 1993-94.

The retention level appears to have improved during post Mid-Day Meals years. It increased to 97 per cent in case of general caste students and 93 per cent of scheduled caste students. However, the retention level of other backward caste students remained constant at 75 per cent and of minority students declined by 1.82 points.

Therefore, despite having high retention level during pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme periods, it appeared that during scheme period, retention level could not be improved significantly.

**TABLE III.11 : Caste-wise Retention Rate during Pre-Mid Day Meal Scheme:
SIRMAUR DISTRICT**

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	22	12	11	64	109
II 1990-91	21	11	11	63	106
III 1991-92	20	10	10	62	102
IV 1992-93	19	9	9	61	98
V 1993-94	19	9	9	61	98

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1990-91	95.45	91.67	100.00	98.44	97.25
III 1991-92	90.91	83.33	90.91	96.88	93.58
IV 1992-93	86.36	75.00	81.82	95.31	89.91
V 1993-94	86.36	75.00	81.82	95.31	89.91

Table III.11 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	--	--	--	--	--
II 1990-91	4.55	8.33	--	1.56	2.75
III 1991-92	9.09	16.67	9.09	3.13	6.42
IV 1992-93	13.64	25.00	18.18	4.69	10.09
V 1993-94	13.64	25.00	18.18	4.69	10.09

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District.

TABLE III.11.1: CASTE-WISE RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	27	16	15	74	132
II 1995-96	26	15	14	74	129
III 1996-97	25	14	13	74	126
IV 1997-98	24	13	12	72	121
V 1998-99	25	12	12	72	121

Table III.11.1 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1995-96	96.30	93.75	93.33	100.00	97.73
III 1996-97	92.59	87.50	86.67	100.00	95.45
IV 1997-98	88.89	81.25	80.00	97.30	91.67
V 1998-99	92.59	75.00	80.00	97.30	91.67

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	--	--	--	--	--
II 1995-96	3.70	6.25	6.67	--	2.27
III 1996-97	7.41	12.50	13.33	--	4.55
IV 1997-98	11.11	18.75	20.00	2.70	8.33
V 1998-99	7.41	25.00	20.00	2.70	8.33

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of the District.

III.13 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: HIMACHAL PRADESH

The caste-wise students enrolled in Class-I during 1989-90 and the same students who reached to Class-V in 1993-94 of Una and Sirmaur districts were aggregated to obtain the status of retention during pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme period at the combined level of both the districts. In the same way, the retention level from Class - I of 1994-95 to Class-V of 1998-99 was also analysed to arrive at post-Mid Day Meals Scheme scenario. The results have been shown in Table III.12 and Table III.12.1.

It was evident that the retention levels of scheduled castes, other backward castes, minorities and general caste students have been 76 per cent, 70 per cent, 82 per cent and 90 per cent during pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme period. The retention rates improved to 83 per cent, 76 per cent, 80 per cent and 91 per cent of SC, OBC, Minority and GC students respectively during post-Mid Day Meals Scheme period.

Thus, the retention of SC, OBC and GC students increased by 8 points, 6 points and 1 points during both the period. The retention of minority students declined by 1.82 points during both periods. Besides, keeping in view the decline in wastage rates during scheme period, the retention level of OBC, SC and minority students needed to be enhanced as yet.

**TABLE III.12 : Caste-wise Retention Rate during Pre-Mid Day Meal Scheme:
HIMACHAL PRADESH**

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	46	50	11	106	212
II 1990-91	42	46	11	103	202
III 1991-92	39	43	10	100	192
IV 1992-93	37	39	9	98	183
V 1993-94	34	35	9	95	173

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1990-91	93.33	92.00	100.00	97.17	95.28
III 1991-92	86.67	86.00	90.91	94.34	90.57
IV 1992-93	82.22	78.00	81.82	92.45	86.32
V 1993-94	75.56	70.00	81.82	89.62	81.60

Table III.12 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1989-90	--	--	--	--	--
II 1990-91	6.67	8.00	--	2.83	4.72
III 1991-92	13.33	14.00	9.09	5.56	0.43
IV 1992-93	17.78	22.00	18.18	7.55	13.63
V 1993-94	24.44	30.00	18.18	10.38	18.40

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of Una and Sirmaur districts, Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE III.12.1: CASTE-WISE RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL DURING POST-MID DAY MEAL SCHEME: HIMACHAL PRADESH

CLASS/ YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS REACHING IN DIFFERENT CLASSES				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	54	58	15	121	248
II 1995-96	52	55	14	119	240
III 1996-97	50	51	13	116	230
IV 1997-98	47	48	12	112	219
V 1998-99	45	44	12	110	211

Table III.12.1 Contd....

CLASS/ YEAR	RETENTION RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
II 1995-96	96.30	94.83	93.33	98.35	96.77
III 1996-97	92.59	87.93	86.67	95.87	92.74
IV 1997-98	87.04	82.76	80.00	92.56	88.31
V 1998-99	83.33	75.86	80.00	90.91	85.08

CLASS/ YEAR	WASTAGE RATE				
	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
I 1994-95	--	--	--	--	--
II 1995-96	3.70	5.17	6.67	1.65	3.23
III 1996-97	7.41	12.07	13.33	4.13	7.26
IV 1997-98	12.96	17.24	20.00	7.44	11.69
V 1998-99	16.67	24.14	20.00	9.09	14.92

Source: Based on the data collected from sample primary schools of Una and Sirmaur Districts, Himachal Pradesh.

III.14 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND CASTE-WISE RETENTION RATES: COMPARISON OF U.P. WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

The comparison of caste-wise retention rates of U.P., (combined level of Varanasi and Agra districts) vis-à-vis Himachal Pradesh (combined level of Una and Sirmaur districts) indicated that retention at primary level has been significantly higher in Himachal Pradesh in case of Scheduled Castes, minorities and general castes students except of other backward castes which has been higher in U.P. than Himachal Pradesh by only 0.98 points.

The increase in retention rates in U.P. and Himachal Pradesh between pre and post Mid-Day Meals Scheme period showed that retention of scheduled castes and other backward castes students increased by 7.77 points and 5.86 points respectively in Himachal Pradesh in comparison with 2.30 points and 0.98 points respectively in U.P. The retention of general caste students increased by 3.78 points in U.P. as against 1.29 points in Himachal Pradesh.

The retention level of minorities declined in both the states between pre and post Mid Day Meals Scheme periods by 1.12 points in U.P. and 1.82 points in Himachal Pradesh. However, the overall situation indicated the better retention level of students belonging to different caste-groups in Himachal Pradesh in comparison with their counterparts in Uttar Pradesh.

Further, the overall situation with regard to retention of students during pre-MMS period in Himachal Pradesh showed that out of those enrolled in Class I, 81.60 per cent of them reached to Class V. In Uttar Pradesh, the proportion of such students was 71.86, i.e., lower by 9.74 per cent as compared with that of Himachal Pradesh. During the post-MMS period, 85.08 per cent of students who were enrolled in Class I in Himachal Pradesh reached to Class V in comparison with 72.95 per cent of students in U.P. who completed class V and, therefore, their proportion was lower by 12.13 per cent in comparison with their counterparts of Himachal Pradesh.

What transpired from the above analysis is that the retention of students at primary level increased during post-Mid Meals Scheme period in U.P. and Himachal Pradesh. While the improvement in U.P. was not significant, it was better in Himachal Pradesh. Though in both states, retention of girls improved much better than of the boys. The improvement in retention of scheduled castes and other backward caste students was better in Himachal Pradesh while General Caste students in U.P. improved their retention more than their counterpart of Himachal Pradesh during Mid-Day Meals Scheme period. However, improvement in retention of students at primary level is still seems not to be satisfactory as sizeable proportion of those students who enroll in Class-I, dropout while reaching to Class - V.

CHAPTER IV

MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

THE important dimension of school effectiveness is the attendance of students. The instructional materials including the textbooks for primary classes have been designed in a manner that schools should effectively work for about 220 days in an academic year for instructional purpose. The experience suggests that neither the schools impart instructions for prescribed number of days nor students attend schools on all working days due to various reasons. The students remain absent from schools on account of family work, illness, natural calamities etc. It is often felt that absenteeism is more among the children belonging to economically poor and socially backward families.

In order to minimise absenteeism and enhance school attendance, the benefit of 3 kgs of wheat/rice provided under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme has been linked with the completion of 80 per cent attendance by beneficiary students. However, it has been felt also that on account of 80 per cent attendance condition of Mid-Day Meals Scheme, the enrolments and attendance are inflated to get allotment of foodgrains under the scheme which becomes as an

indicator of efficiency of schools. However, despite such limitations, attendance conditions of Mid-Day Meals Scheme is supposed to increase attendance with the presumption that the scheme acts as an attraction to primary students to attend schools regularly. With this hypothesis in view, the year-wise attendance of boys, girls and total students from class I to V and caste-wise attendance of total primary students was obtained from the sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra districts of U.P. and Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh. The data could be available from 1994-95, the year of start of Mid-Day Meals Scheme, till 1998-99. Therefore, the attendance rates during pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme period i.e., 1989-90 to 1993-94 could not be analysed and hence comparative analysis could not be made. Only the trend in attendance rates have been examined during the years of Mid-Day Meals Scheme. The attendance rates in percentage have been calculated as under:

- (I) **Enrolment x Number of days school opened in an academic session = Total Number of Students Days School Opened in an academic Session.**
- (ii) **Enrolment x Total attendance in an academic session = Total Number of days students attended school in an academic Session.**

$$\text{Attendance Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Days Students attended School In an Academic Session}}{\text{Total Number of Students Days School opened In an Academic Session}} \times 100$$

IV.1 ATTENDANCE RATES: VARANASI DISTRICT

The attendance rates of boys, girls and total students from Class I to V were calculated in case of sample primary schools of Varanasi district and results have been placed in Table IV.1.

It is evident that the attendance rate of all primary level boys was 77 per cent in 1994-95, which increased to 79 per cent in 1998-99. In this way, there has been only 2 percentage points increase in boys attendance rate during five years period of Mid-Day Meals Scheme. Such type of trend was also evident at each class level. The attendance rates in Class-I during 1994-95 to 1998-99 have been found to be lower in comparison with Class - II and onwards. There are years like 1995-96 in Class-I, II and III and 1997-98 in Class - IV, when attendance rates declined though marginally than the preceding year. Thus, the attendance rates of boys in primary classes of Varanasi district showed marginal year to year increase and seem to have insignificant impact of Mid-Day Meals Scheme.

The attendance rates of girls in Varanasi district are comparatively lower than boys in every year from 1994-95 to 1998-99. The year to year increase is also inconsistent. During the second year of scheme, marginal downswing is evident upto Class IV and total girl students. However, during later year marginal increase is evident. Overall, the attendance rate of girls at primary

TABLE IV.1: ATTENDANCE RATES OF BOYS, GIRLS AND TOTAL STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL: VARANASI DISTRICT

YEAR	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV	CLASS V	Total (Class I to V)
BOYS						
1994-95	75.95	76.58	77.27	77.95	78.04	77.14
1995-96	75.71	76.23	77.14	78.25	78.87	77.20
1996-97	77.14	78.10	78.20	78.54	78.58	78.10
1997-98	77.78	78.75	79.82	78.21	78.98	78.70
1998-99	78.19	79.89	79.54	78.57	79.09	79.07
GIRLS						
1994-95	72.15	74.69	75.15	76.32	77.11	74.93
1995-96	71.47	72.61	74.29	76.16	77.26	74.13
1996-97	71.33	72.85	74.31	75.73	77.41	74.18
1997-98	74.51	73.10	74.35	76.36	78.29	75.12
1998-99	75.40	76.31	76.54	77.46	78.23	76.68
TOTAL						
1994-95	74.66	75.94	76.55	77.46	77.76	76.42
1995-96	74.25	74.98	76.16	77.60	78.38	76.18
1996-97	75.30	76.24	76.86	77.67	78.22	76.80
1997-98	76.62	76.79	77.94	77.63	78.77	77.50
1998-99	77.21	78.63	78.51	78.22	78.82	78.27

Source: Based on the data collected from sample Primary Schools of the District.

level increased by 1.75 points during five years of operation of Mid-Day Meals Scheme.

The attendance rates of total students (boys and girls both) also showed increase of 1.85 points in 1998-99 over 1994-95. The increase is more in lower classes (Class - I and II as compared to higher classes (class III, IV and V). The year to year change did not seem to have been influenced by any specific programme rather it denoted a natural growth, resulting on account of several factors.

IV.2 ATTENDANCE RATES: AGRA DISTRICT

As evident from Table IV.2 that attendance rates of boys, girls and total students were 78.81 per cent, 77.79 per cent and 78.42 per cent respectively in 1994-95 which showing increasing trend reached to 81.86 per cent, 81.41 per cent and 81.69 per cent respectively in 1998-99. In the initial Class-I, attendance rates have been found to be lower but higher rates are evident in subsequent classes. However, year to year increase showed snail pace increase and there are years in which attendance rates showed marginal downswing than the preceding year. The attendance rates of boys are relatively higher than girls during all the years from 1994-95 to 1998-99. Thus, the analysis of attendance rates did not show perceptible impact of Mid-Day Meals Scheme on enhancing the attendance of primary level students in Agra district.

TABLE IV.2: ATTENDANCE RATES OF BOYS, GIRLS AND TOTAL STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL: AGRA DISTRICT

YEAR	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV	CLASS V	Total (Class I to V)
BOYS						
1994-95	77.47	78.15	79.10	80.16	80.57	78.81
1995-96	78.01	79.26	80.36	81.33	80.43	79.66
1996-97	79.12	80.25	81.22	82.59	81.49	80.69
1997-98	80.16	81.12	82.13	82.98	81.82	81.50
1998-99	80.13	81.68	82.16	84.17	82.19	81.86
GIRLS						
1994-95	76.17	77.13	78.69	79.14	78.46	77.79
1995-96	77.13	77.95	79.18	80.41	80.33	78.79
1996-97	77.82	79.09	80.82	81.25	79.53	79.52
1997-98	78.12	80.67	81.10	82.13	82.16	80.58
1998-99	80.23	81.16	81.97	82.76	81.82	81.41
TOTAL						
1994-95	77.01	77.79	78.94	78.74	79.69	78.42
1995-96	77.69	78.74	79.93	80.97	80.39	79.32
1996-97	78.65	79.82	81.08	82.07	80.73	80.26
1997-98	79.40	80.94	81.80	82.64	82.01	81.16
1998-99	80.17	81.48	82.10	83.64	82.04	81.69

Source: Based on the data collected from sample Primary Schools of the District.

IV.3 ATTENDANCE RATES: UTTAR PRADESH

The attendance data of sample primary schools of Varanasi and Agra districts were added together to analyse the situation emerging at the combined level of both districts. The results have been shown in Table IV.3.

The table showed that attendance rates of boys, girls and total students of Class I to V were 77.43 per cent, 75.64 per cent and 76.86 per cent respectively in 1994-95 which increased to 79.78 per cent, 78.06 per cent and 79.19 per cent respectively in 1998-99. In this way, attendance rate of boys, girls and total students at primary level increased by 2.35 points, 2.42 points and 2.33 points during 1994-95 to 1998-99. The attendance rates of girls in each class are lower than of the boys. A review of the attendance rates revealed that year to year increase is not significant and during few years, attendance rates have declined than what was found in earlier years.

IV.4 ATTENDANCE RATES: UNA DISTRICT

The attendance rate of boys of Class-I to V in Una district of Himachal Pradesh was found to be 78.02 per cent in 1994-95, which increased to 81.40 per cent in 1998-99. Similarly, the attendance rates of girls and total students increased from 77.17 per cent and 77.61 per cent to 80.20 per cent and 80.82 per cent respectively during the same years. The increasing trend, though

TABLE IV.3: ATTENDANCE RATES OF BOYS, GIRLS AND TOTAL STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL: UTTAR PRADESH

YEAR	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV	CLASS V	Total (Class I to V)
BOYS						
1994-95	76.33	76.97	77.62	73.31	73.45	77.43
1995-96	76.30	76.93	77.83	78.78	79.15	77.72
1996-97	77.67	78.66	78.87	79.28	79.13	78.69
1997-98	78.44	79.39	80.44	79.13	79.57	79.39
1998-99	78.75	80.40	80.28	79.71	79.74	79.78
GIRLS						
1994-95	73.19	75.32	75.93	77.02	77.45	75.64
1995-96	73.00	74.07	75.43	77.14	78.05	75.31
1996-97	73.51	74.50	75.85	77.07	77.93	75.57
1997-98	75.60	75.43	76.05	77.81	79.29	76.63
1998-99	76.96	77.87	78.01	78.80	79.22	78.06
TOTAL						
1994-95	75.25	76.40	77.03	77.89	78.13	76.86
1995-96	75.15	75.90	76.99	78.25	78.79	76.90
1996-97	76.21	77.20	77.82	78.55	78.74	77.62
1997-98	77.42	77.97	78.95	78.69	79.48	78.44
1998-99	78.10	79.48	79.51	79.41	79.57	79.19

Source: Based on the data collected from sample Primary Schools of Varanasi and Agra Districts.

TABLE IV.4: ATTENDANCE RATES OF BOYS, GIRLS AND TOTAL STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL: UNA DISTRICT

YEAR	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV	CLASS V	Total (Class I to V)
BOYS						
1994-95	76.10	77.42	78.17	79.15	79.72	78.02
1995-96	76.82	78.02	79.40	80.17	891.17	78.99
1996-97	77.13	79.29	80.10	81.08	82.12	79.81
1997-98	77.85	79.98	81.21	82.10	82.65	80.61
1998-99	78.21	80.16	82.68	83.15	83.71	81.40
GIRLS						
1994-95	75.25	76.10	77.19	78.00	79.41	77.17
1995-96	75.68	77.17	78.09	79.00	79.23	77.83
1996-97	76.03	78.14	79.20	80.00	80.34	78.74
1997-98	76.61	78.24	80.23	81.00	81.54	79.47
1998-99	77.23	73.40	81.12	82.00	81.37	80.20
TOTAL						
1994-95	75.71	76.79	77.70	78.57	79.57	77.61
1995-96	76.31	77.62	78.77	79.59	80.22	78.44
1996-97	76.62	78.75	79.66	80.51	81.23	79.28
1997-98	77.28	79.17	80.74	81.54	82.11	80.06
1998-99	77.76	79.62	81.93	82.57	82.56	80.82

Source: Based on the data collected from sample Primary Schools of the District.

nominal, is evident at each class level. Besides the attendance rates of girls are lower than boys in each year at every class level. In this district also, year to year increase in attendance rates is not significant. In Table IV.4, year-wise attendance rates of boys, girls and total students from Class I to V have been shown.

IV.5 ATTENDANCE RATES: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

The analysis of data as shown in Table IV.5 showed that attendance rates of boys, girls and total students at Class I to V were quite higher. This varied from 91 per cent to 93 per cent of boys, around 93 per cent of girls and 92 to 93 per cent in case of total primary students. In this district, difference in attendance rates between boys and girls were very insignificant. In some years and class, the attendance rates of girls were higher than boys. Here again, year to year change in attendance rates was not significant but since the attendance rates have been found to be at higher level, it signified the better effectiveness of the primary education system of Sirmaur district. Our results bears resemblance with findings of a NIEPA study on school attendance which has found high attendance level of more than 91 per cent at primary level in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE IV.5: ATTENDANCE RATES OF BOYS, GIRLS AND TOTAL STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

YEAR	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV	CLASS V	Total (Class I to V)
BOYS						
1994-95	91.07	90.00	90.26	91.10	91.20	90.74
1995-96	91.21	90.05	90.52	91.80	91.06	90.94
1996-97	91.89	90.99	90.78	92.20	92.40	91.65
1997-98	92.10	91.25	91.46	92.85	92.66	92.06
1998-99	93.14	92.45	92.13	93.01	93.38	92.82
GIRLS						
1994-95	91.05	91.10	90.40	91.84	92.28	92.82
1995-96	91.78	91.17	91.02	92.00	91.86	91.52
1996-97	92.24	91.88	91.25	92.10	94.00	92.15
1997-98	92.19	92.02	91.49	92.47	91.76	91.98
1998-99	93.01	92.21	92.00	92.88	96.08	93.04
TOTAL						
1994-95	91.06	90.55	90.33	90.53	91.85	91.72
1995-96	91.49	90.60	90.78	91.88	91.39	91.21
1996-97	92.06	91.44	91.03	92.16	93.07	91.89
1997-98	92.14	91.63	91.47	92.69	92.28	92.02
1998-99	93.07	92.32	92.07	92.95	94.50	92.93

Source: Based on the data collected from sample Primary Schools of the District.

IV.6 ATTENDANCE RATES: HIMACHAL PRADESH

The attendance rates computed at the combined level of Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh as shown in Table IV.5 showed that in case of total primary students the attendance rate increased from 91.72 per cent in 1994-95 to 92.93 per cent in 1998-99. Similarly, in case of boys and girls, nominal increase in attendance rates became evident. The attendance rates of girl students were found to be better than of the boys. The overall trend indicated that attendance rates varied between 90 to 95 per cent in Class I to V of boys, girls and total students and year to year change is nominal in Himachal Pradesh.

IV.7 ATTENDANCE RATES : COMPARISON OF UTTAR PRADESH WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

The comparison of attendance rates in U.P. as shown in Table IV.3 with Himachal Pradesh as evident from Table IV.6 indicated that attendance rates at primary level in U.P. were lower than of the Himachal Pradesh. The attendance of boys in Class I to V in Himachal Pradesh was found to be higher by 7.02 points in 1994-95 as against their counterparts of U.P. The better position of Himachal Pradesh continued in 1998-99 when the boys' attendance rate was found to be higher by 7.58 points in comparison with the

TABLE IV.6: ATTENDANCE RATES OF BOYS, GIRLS AND TOTAL STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL: HIMACHAL PRADESH

YEAR	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III	CLASS IV	CLASS V	Total (Class I to V)
BOYS						
1994-95	83.81	83.44	84.17	85.39	85.57	84.45
1995-96	85.76	83.26	84.39	85.79	85.69	84.53
1996-97	85.08	85.07	85.67	87.00	87.63	86.02
1997-98	85.05	85.31	86.25	87.55	87.67	86.32
1998-99	86.03	86.18	87.54	88.48	89.02	87.37
GIRLS						
1994-95	84.08	83.66	84.02	88.12	85.03	84.89
1995-96	84.10	83.57	84.32	84.11	84.26	84.07
1996-97	85.18	85.26	85.94	85.24	86.53	85.60
1997-98	85.14	85.23	85.94	85.91	86.24	85.65
1998-99	86.35	86.28	86.80	86.93	88.35	86.85
TOTAL						
1994-95	83.94	83.55	84.10	86.65	85.38	84.66
1995-96	83.92	83.42	84.36	84.98	85.11	84.31
1996-97	85.13	85.16	85.81	86.18	87.12	85.82
1997-98	85.09	85.27	86.10	86.79	87.18	86.00
1998-99	86.19	86.29	87.18	87.77	88.72	87.12

Source: Based on the data collected from sample Primary Schools of Una and Sirmaur Districts.

attendance of boys in U.P. Similarly, in case of girls and total primary students, attendance rates were 9.25 points and 7.78 points higher in Himachal Pradesh than U.P. in 1994-95. The U.P. continued to show relatively poor attendance rates than Himachal pradesh in 1998-99 by 7.59 points, 8.79 points and 7.93 points of boys, girls and total primary students respectively. The U.P. showed a marked difference in attendance rates between boys and girls whereas such disparity was insignificant in Himachal Pradesh.

IV.8 Caste-wise Attendance Rates: Varanasi District

The caste-wise attendance rates of students in sample primary schools of Varanasi district have been computed and shown in Table IV.7.

The table showed that attendance rates of students belonging to general castes were highest followed by the attendance of scheduled castes, other backward castes and minorities. The general caste students had attendance rates of 92 per cent in 1994-95, which declined by 0.84 points and 2.63 points during two subsequent years. Later on, attendance rates increased to 91 per cent in 1998-99. In this way, attendance rates of general castes students, despite being highest, showed fluctuating trend during the years of Mid-Day Meals Scheme in Varanasi district.

Similarly, the attendance rates of scheduled castes and other backward castes varied between 75 to 78 per cent and of minority students 68 to 70 per cent during 1994-95 and 1998-99. In these cases, the impact of Mid-Day Meals Scheme was hardly perceptible.

TABLE IV.7: ATTENDANCE RATES AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V): VARANASI DISTRICT

Year	Scheduled Castes	Other Backward Castes	Minorities	General Castes	Total
1994-95	78.02	75.47	69.98	92.19	76.42
1995-96	76.16	75.66	69.82	91.35	76.18
1996-97	75.35	74.71	87.27	88.72	76.80
1997-98	77.50	77.47	68.03	89.14	77.50
1998-99	77.96	78.11	69.09	91.00	78.27

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

IV.9 CASTE-WISE ATTENDANCE RATES: AGRA DISTRICT

The caste-wise attendance rates of primary students in Agra district also showed the similar pattern as observed in Varanasi district. From Table IV.8, it reflected that changes in attendance rates were inconsistent across different castes. The attendance rates of general caste students increased from 88 per cent in 1994-95 to 94 per cent in 1997-98 but declined to 92 per cent in

1998-99. The attendance rates of minority students were 67 per cent in 1994-95, which declined to 65 per cent in 1995-96. It again increased during two subsequent years but declined further to 69 per cent in 1998-99. Similarly, the attendance rates of other backward castes and scheduled castes were around 78 per cent in 1994-95 but declined to 76 per cent in both cases in 1995-96. These rates again showed increasing trend during two subsequent years but in 1998-99, the attendance rates of other backward castes and scheduled castes declined to 81 per cent and 82 per cent respectively during 1998-99.

TABLE IV.8 : ATTENDANCE RATES AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO VI): AGRA DISTRICT

Year	Scheduled Castes	Other Backward Castes	Minorities	General Castes	Total
1994-95	78.43	78.72	66.93	87.89	78.42
1995-96	76.36	76.15	65.35	88.90	79.32
1996-97	82.76	79.53	69.44	93.95	80.26
1997-98	84.65	80.11	70.17	94.13	81.16
1998-99	81.69	80.82	68.50	91.58	81.69

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

IV.10 Caste-wise Attendance Rates: Uttar Pradesh

The caste-wise attendance data of Varanasi and Agra districts were added up to calculate attendance rates at the combined level of both districts. The results have been placed in Table IV.9.

It reflected from table that there was no consistency in attendance rates of different castes during 1994-95 to 1998-99. The attendance rate of Scheduled Castes students at primary level, which was 78.11 per cent in 1994-95, increased marginally during each year upto 1997-98 but it declined in 1998-99. Likewise the attendance rates of other caste students showed

TABLE IV.9 : ATTENDANCE RATES AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO IV): UTTAR PRADESH

Year	Scheduled Castes	Other Backward Castes	Minorities	General Castes	Total
1994-95	78.11	76.17	69.27	91.16	76.86
1995-96	78.22	75.70	67.73	89.63	76.90
1996-97	77.10	76.31	67.50	89.07	77.62
1997-98	79.34	78.14	68.58	90.54	78.44
1998-99	78.97	78.49	68.75	91.40	79.19

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of Varanasi and Agra Districts.

nominal year to year increase and there had been downswing also in each case. As a result, in case of students of different castes, nominal change in attendance rates was evident during 1994-95 to 1998-99.

IV.11 CASTE-WISE ATTENDANCE RATES: UNA DISTRICT

The caste-wise attendance rates which have been shown in Table IV.10 revealed that among different castes, general castes students had highest attendance rates which continuously increased from 81 per cent in 1994-95 to 85 per cent in 1998-99. Thereafter, attendance rate of other backward castes students was 78 per cent in 1994-95 and it increased to 80 per cent during 1989-90. The attendance rate of scheduled castes also showed increasing trend from 70 per cent in 1994-95 to 74 per cent during 1998-99.

TABLE IV.10 : ATTENDANCE RATES AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V): UNA DISTRICT

Year	Scheduled Castes	Other Backward Castes	Minorities	General Castes	Total
1994-95	70.10	77.80	--	81.22	77.61
1995-96	71.26	77.89	--	81.38	78.44
1996-97	73.36	78.00	--	83.50	79.28
1997-98	73.57	78.71	--	84.28	80.06
1998-99	74.20	79.80	--	84.68	80.82

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district.

Thus, during five years period of 1994-95 to 1998-99, attendance rates of scheduled castes students at primary level increased by 4.10 points in comparison with 3.46 points and 2.00 points increase in attendance rates of general castes and other backward caste students.

IV.12 CASTE-WISE ATTENDANCE RATES: SIRMAUR DISTRICT

The attendance rates of primary students belonging to different castes in Sirmaur district had been higher as against of their counterparts in Una district. However, in this district also, year to year change in attendance rates across different castes are not significant as evident in Table IV.11.

IV.13 CASTE-WISE ATTENDANCE RATES: HIMACHAL PRADESH

The attendance rates of primary level students belonging to different castes as became evident at the aggregate level of Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh were found to be 80 per cent and above during the period 1994-95 to 1998-99 except the year 1995-96 when these rates were marginally lower than 80 per cent. At the combined level of both districts, annual increase in attendance rates across students of different castes was also not significant. During five year period of 1994-95 to 1998-99, the attendance rate of scheduled castes students increased by 3.59 points

followed by 2.49 points, 1.96 points and 0.14 points increase in attendance of other backward castes, general castes and minority students respectively in Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE IV.11: ATTENDANCE RATES AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V): SIRMAUR DISTRICT

Year	Scheduled Castes	Other Backward Castes	Minorities	General Castes	Total
1994-95	90.60	90.37	89.07	92.64	91.72
1995-96	89.24	88.78	86.29	92.87	91.21
1996-97	90.05	91.02	89.11	93.04	91.89
1997-98	89.74	89.07	87.99	92.46	92.02
1998-99	92.37	92.93	89.21	93.55	92.93

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of the district

IV.14 CASTE-WISE ATTENDANCE RATES: COMPARISON OF UTTAR PRADESH WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

A comparison of attendance rates of primary level students belonging to different castes in Uttar Pradesh with their counterparts in Himachal Pradesh indicated that attendance rates of students of different castes in U.P. were lower than of Himachal Pradesh except in case of general castes students of

Uttar Pradesh who showed higher attendance by 3.16 points in 1994-95, 2.06 points in 1995-96, 1.38 points in 1997-98 and 1.44 points in 1998-99 in comparison with attendance rates of general castes students in Himachal Pradesh. Though in both the states, substantial annual increase in attendance rates in respect of students of different castes group was not evident.

TABLE IV.12 : ATTENDANCE RATES AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V): HIMACHAL PRADESH

Year	Scheduled Castes	Other Backward Castes	Minorities	General Castes	Total
1994-95	80.44	80.32	89.07	88.00	84.66
1995-96	79.13	79.52	86.29	87.57	84.31
1996-97	82.25	80.73	89.11	89.34	85.82
1997-98	81.48	80.81	87.99	89.16	86.00
1998-99	84.03	82.81	89.21	89.96	87.12

Source: Based on the data collected from Sample Primary Schools of Una and Sirmaur districts.

The overall situation indicated that year to year change in attendance rates is not significant in U.P. as well as in Himachal Pradesh. However, the fact has emerged that attendance rates of primary students in Himachal Pradesh were much higher in comparison with their counterparts of Uttar Pradesh.

CHAPTER V

PROFILE AND PERCEPTION OF SCHEME BENEFICIARIES

THE government has instituted Mid-Day Meals as an incentive scheme to boost enrolment, retention and attendance and to enhance the nutritional status of children at primary education stage. The main objective behind the implementation of scheme was that it would operate as a positive catalyst to influence the decision of parents belonging to poorer sections of population to send their children to schools to at least complete their elementary schooling.

In this chapter, socio-economic status of the scheme beneficiaries has been analysed and their perceptions have been studied about the various aspects of Mid-Day Meals Scheme. The analysis has been attempted on the basis of primary information collected from the sample parents and students.

V.1 CASTE OF BENEFICIARIES:

The numbers of sample beneficiaries (parents) of scheme have been classified according to their castes in Table V.1. It became evident from the table that around 40 per cent of total beneficiaries belonged to scheduled castes, 32 per cent to other backward castes, 16 per cent to minorities and only 12 per cent to general castes in Uttar Pradesh.

In Himachal Pradesh, around 49 per cent beneficiaries were of general castes, 29 per cent scheduled castes, 12 per cent other backward castes and 10 per cent of minority community.

Thus, the benefit of Mid-Day Meals Scheme was taken mostly by the parents of poor socio-economic background in Uttar Pradesh whereas only around half of the beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh were reported to be belonging to poor socio-economic classes. In Uttar Pradesh, around 37 per cent more beneficiaries of underprivileged groups had benefited more under the Mid-Day Meals scheme in comparison with their counterparts in Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE V.1 : CASTE-WISE BENEFICIARIES IN SAMPLE DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	46	40	36	9	130
	(34.62)	(30.77)	(27.69)	(6.92)	(100.00)
2. Agra	51	35	4	19	112
	(45.54)	(33.93)	(3.57)	(16.96)	(100.00)
TOTAL (1+2)	96	78	40	28	242
	(39.67)	(32.23)	(16.53)	(11.57)	(100.00)
3. UNNAO	30	13	-	37	80
	(37.50)	(16.25)		(46.25)	(100.00)
4. SIDHMAU	16	5	16	39	76
	(21.05)	(6.58)	(21.05)	(51.32)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	46	18	16	76	156
	(29.49)	(11.54)	(10.26)	(48.71)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary Data.

V.2 FAMILY SIZE:

The average family size of sample beneficiary parents was computed in Table V.2 which showed that it was 5.79 persons in U.P. as against 4.78 persons in Himachal Pradesh. In U.P., average family size of minorities was reported to be highest i.e., 6.06 persons followed by 6.2 persons per scheduled castes family, 5.68 persons per general castes family and 5.49 persons in case of other backward castes. In Himachal Pradesh, the average size of scheduled castes families was highest i.e., 5.52 persons followed by 5 persons per other backward castes, 4.37 persons per general castes and 4.31 persons per Muslim family.

TABLE V.2 : AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE OF BENEFICIARY PARENTS

DISTRICT	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	5.4	5.70	5.89	6.11	5.68
2. ADDA	6.55	5.26	7.50	5.47	5.96
TOTAL(1+2)	6.02	5.49	6.06	5.68	5.79
1. UMA	5.00	5.23	-	4.51	4.81
2. SIMLAUR	5.50	4.40	4.31	4.23	4.74
TOTAL(3+4)	5.52	5.00	4.31	4.37	4.78

Source: Based on Primary Data.

V.3 SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN AND SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN IN UTTAR PRADESH:

The computer family structure of sample beneficiary parents was recorded in Varanasi and Agra districts of U.P. Its analysis indicated that in Varanasi district, average population of school age children (6-11 years) per beneficiary household was 2.09 children. Out of these, average 1.78 children were enrolled in primary classes. The proportion of school age children who were found to be enrolled at primary level in their total population in the district was 84.93 per cent. In this way, it became evident that 16.07 per cent of school-age children were not going to school in Varanasi district during 1999.

As far the population of school-age children belonging to beneficiaries of different castes was concerned, the data showed that the Muslim households of district had average enrolment of 1.61 children. Thus, 90.62 per cent of total population of school-age Muslim children were enrolled in primary classes in district in comparison with 87.80 per cent of backward castes, 83.87 per cent of general castes and 78.95 per cent of scheduled castes children in age group of 6-11 years. Thus, 12.20 per cent of other backward castes, 16.13 per cent of general castes, 21.05 per cent of scheduled castes and 9.38 Muslim children were not attending any school in the district.

TABLE V.3: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS, AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN AGE 6-11 YEARS AND PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS) IN SAMPLE DISTRICTS, U.P.

CASTES	VARANASI		
	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS PER FAMILY	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED PER FAMILY	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS)
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	2.11	1.67	78.95
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.05	1.80	87.80
3. MINORITIES	1.78	1.61	90.62
3. GENERAL CASTES	3.44	2.89	83.87
TOTAL (1 to 4)	2.09	1.78	84.93

CASTES	AGRA		
	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS PER FAMILY	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED PER FAMILY	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS)
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	2.33	1.98	84.87
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.21	1.79	80.95
3. MINORITIES	2.50	2.25	90.00
3. GENERAL CASTES	2.00	1.74	86.84
TOTAL (1 + 4)	2.24	1.88	84.06

Table V.3 Contd...

CASTES	TOTAL VARANASI + AGRA		
	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS PER FAMILY	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED PER FAMILY	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	2.23	1.83	82.24
3. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.13	1.79	84.34
3. MINORITIES	1.85	1.68	90.54
4. GENERAL CASTES	2.46	2.11	85.51
TOTAL (1 + 4)	2.16	1.83	84.51

Source: Based on Primary data.

The average number of school-age children were 2.24 per household and average 1.88 children per household were going to school in Agra district. The proportion of total school going children in their total population came to 84.06 per cent which means that 15.94 per cent of total school-age children were not going to school in the district.

The analysis further showed that 90 per cent of total Muslims children population were found to be going to schools in Agra district in comparison with 86.84 per cent of general castes, 84.87 per cent of scheduled castes and 80.95 per cent of children population belonging to backward castes in the district.

The combined scenario of Varanasi and Agra district revealed that 84.51 per cent of total population of school-age children were going to school in U.P. in 1999. It means that 15.49 per cent of total school-age children were not attending schools in U.P. during 1999. In case of scheduled castes, other backward castes and general castes and Muslim students, the proportions of non-school going children in U.P. come to 17.76 per cent, 15.66 per cent, 14.49 per cent and 9.46 per cent respectively. In Table V.3 caste-wise average number of children in age of 6-11 years, average number of school going children in some age-group and percentage of total children enrolled to their total population (6 - 11 years) have been shown.

V.4 SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN AND SCHOOLGOING CHILDREN IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

The family structure of sample beneficiary parents of Una district of Himachal Pradesh revealed that average population of school-age children per household in the district was 1.85 children and 1.74 children per household were found to be going to school. Thus, the proportion of total school going children in their total population was 93.92 per cent. In case of scheduled castes, other backward castes and general castes, 91.67 per cent, 92.31 per cent and 95.16 per cent of school-age children were found to be going to schools in Una district.

TABLE V.4: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS, AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN AGE 6-11 YEARS AND PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS) IN SAMPLE DISTRICTS, H.P.

CASTES	UNA		
	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS PER FAMILY	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED PER FAMILY	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS)
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	2.00	1.83	91.67
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.00	1.85	92.31
3. MINORITIES	-	-	-
4. GENERAL CASTES	1.68	1.59	95.16
TOTAL (1 + 4)	1.85	1.74	93.92

CASTES	SIRMOUR		
	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS PER FAMILY	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED PER FAMILY	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS)
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	2.00	1.88	93.75
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.40	2.40	100.00
3. MINORITIES	2.00	1.94	96.88
4. GENERAL CASTES	1.97	1.90	96.10
TOTAL (1 + 4)	2.01	1.93	96.08

Table V.4 Contd...

CASTES	T O T A L (UNA + SIRMOUR)		
	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS PER FAMILY	AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN IN AGE 6-11 YEARS ENROLLED PER FAMILY	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED TO TOTAL CHILDREN (6-11 YEARS)
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	2.00	1.85	92.39
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	2.11	2.00	94.74
3. MINORITIES	2.00	1.94	96.88
4. GENERAL CASTES	1.83	1.75	95.68
TOTAL (1 + 4)	1.93	D1.83	94.68

Source: Based on Primary data.

In Sirmaur district, average population of school-age children was 2.10 and average 1.93 children per household were going to schools. The proportion of school going children in their population came to 96.08 per cent. It became evident further that around 100 per cent children of other backward castes, 96.88 per cent of Muslims, 96.10 per cent of general castes and 93.75 per cent of scheduled castes were found to be going to schools in Sirmaur district.

At the combined level of Una and Sirmaur districts, it became evident that average population of school-age children per household was 1.93 children and average 1.83 children per household were going to schools. The percentage of school going children in their population was 94.68 per cent which means that 5.32 per cent of total school-age children in Himachal

Pradesh were not going to schools. A similar pattern also reflected in case of children of different castes. The table V.4 showed the average number of school-age children and school going children per household and the percentage of school going children to total children in Una and Sirmaur districts as well as at the combined level of both the districts.

V.5 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN AND SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN: COMPARISON OF U.P. WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH

It became evident from the analysis that population of school-age children (6-11 years) per household in U.P. was approximately 11 per cent more in comparison with Himachal Pradesh because in U.P., the average population of school-age children per household was 2.16 in comparison with 1.93 children per household in Himachal Pradesh. However, in U.P. as well as in Himachal Pradesh, average 1.83 children per household were found to be going to schools. But on account of higher population of school-age children in U.P. in comparison with Himachal Pradesh, only 84.51 per cent of total population of school-age children were going to schools in U.P. as against 94.68 per cent of school going children in Himalchal Pradesh. Thus, around 16 per cent of total school age children were not going to schools in U.P. in comparison with only 5.32 per cent of their counterparts in Himachal Pradesh. It indicated that promotion of enrolment through incentive schemes like Mid-Day Meals Scheme could make lesser headway in U.P. in comparison with

TABLE V.5: EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF BENEFICIARY PARENTS IN SAMPLE DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	ILLITERATE	PRIMARY	MIDDLE	HIGH SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE	GRADUATE & ABOVE	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	55	19	27	24	5	130
	(42.30)	(14.62)	(20.77)	(18.46)	(3.85)	(100.00)
2. AGRA	41	35	23	12	1	112
	(36.61)	(31.25)	(20.54)	(10.71)	(0.89)	(100.00)
TOTAL (1+2)	96	54	50	36	6	242
	(39.67)	(22.31)	(20.66)	(14.88)	(2.48)	(100.00)
3. UNA	7	22	22	27	2	80
	(8.75)	(27.50)	(27.50)	(33.75)	(2.50)	(100.00)
4. SIRMOUR	29	16	15	13	33	76
	(38.16)	(21.06)	(19.73)	(17.11)	(3.95)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	36	38	37	40	5	156
	(23.08)	(24.36)	(23.72)	(25.64)	(3.20)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary data.

results obtained in Himachal Pradesh. The children of scheduled castes other backward castes seem to have got lesser encouragement to join schools in comparison with their counterpart of general castes and Muslims in U.P. as well as the children of their other castes in Himachal Pradesh.

V.6 EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

The education level of beneficiary parents as shown in Table V.6 indicate that around 40 per cent beneficiary parents were illiterate in U.P. in comparison with 23 per cent illiterate parents in Himachal Pradesh. It became further evident that educational level of beneficiary parents in U.P. was comparatively lower than their counterparts of Himachal Pradesh.

V.7 AVERAGE QUANTITY RECEIVED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME:

The sample students were asked by our research team that how much wheat/rice they received under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme during the year 1998-99. According to the information furnished by them as shown in Table V.6, on an average each student received 19.32 kgs of wheat in U.P. which was only 64.40 per cent of prescribed norm of 30 kgs in an academic year. In Himachal Pradesh, per student distribution was found to be 22.95 kgs, which was 76.50 per cent of, prescribed quantity of 30 kgms per student per academic year of ten months duration. Thus, our findings confirm the fact that around 40 per cent of total foodgrains allotment in U.P. remained unutilised

during 1998-99. Besides, it was also revealed during discussion with primary school teachers that sometimes authorities like District Magistrates order the diversion of Foodgrains of Mid-Day Meal for other purposes. Like in Varanasi district, wheat of Mid-Day Meals Scheme was distributed to flood victims for two months on the order of district Magistrate in 1998-99.

TABLE V.6: AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WHEAT/RICE DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME: STUDENTS RESPONSE

DISTRICT	AVERAGE QUANTITY DISTRIBUTION (Kg)	DISTRIBUTION AS PERCENTAGE OF ALLOTMENT
1. VARANASI	21.49	71.63
2. AGRA	16.69	55.63
TOTAL (1 + 2)	19.32	64.40
3. UNA	20.35	67.83
4. SIRMOUR	25.42	84.73
TOTAL (3 +4)	22.95	76.50

Source: Based on Primary Data

V.8 CONSUMPTION DAYS OF WHEAT/RICE RECEIVED UNDER THE SCHEME:

The parents of Varansi and Agra districts in U.P. and Una and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh have reported that entire quantity of wheat/rice available to their wards was consumed within five days. It is evident from

**TABLE V.7: CLASSIFICATION OF PARENTS ACCORDING TO CONSUMPTION DAYS
OF WHEAT/RICE RECEIVED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME**

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF DAYS					
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	20	59	33	15	3	130
	(15.38)	(45.38)	(25.39)	(11.54)	(2.31)	(100.00)
2. AGRA	18	53	21	15	5	112
	(16.07)	(47.33)	(18.75)	(13.39)	(4.46)	(100.00)
TOTAL (1 + 2)	38	112	54	30	8	242
	(15.70)	(46.28)	(22.31)	(12.40)	(3.31)	(100.00)
3. UNA	12	28	10	14	16	80
	(15.00)	(35.00)	(12.50)	(17.50)	(20.00)	(100.00)
4. SIRMOUR	4	33	20	8	11	76
	(5.26)	(43.42)	(26.32)	(10.53)	(14.47)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	16	61	30	22	27	156
	(10.26)	(39.10)	(19.23)	(14.10)	(17.31)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary data.

Table V.7 that around 84 per cent of parents reported the consumption of MMS wheat in three days in U.P. whereas 69 per cent of them reported the consumption of rice in three days in Himachal Pradesh. Thus, the quantity of wheat/rice available to students was consumed with a few days.

V.9 USE OF WHEAT/RICE RECEIVED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME:

It was enquired from the sample parents that how the wheat/rice available to their wards was consumed. In U.P., around 85 per cent of them reported that entire quantity of wheat received under the scheme was consumed by their families. The 11 per cent parents reported the use exclusively for children and 4 per cent informed that the wheat was sold in the market. In two districts of Himachal Pradesh, or less similar use pattern of rice received under the scheme was evident as reflected from Table V.8.

V10. COLLECTON OF WHEAT/RICE OF MID DAY MEALS OF SCHEME:

The parents of beneficiary students were inquired that how their wards collected wheat/rice available under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme. Most of them in U.P. as well as in Himachal Pradesh reported that their wards themselves collected it as reflected from Table V.10. Only 10 per cent of sample parents in Himachal Pradesh reported that they sometimes accompanied with their wards.

TABLE V.8: CLASSIFICATION OF PARENTS ACCORDING TO USE OF WHEAT/RICE DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME

DISTRICT	USED FOR FAMILY	USED FOR CHILD	SOLD IN MARKET	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	113	12	5	130
	(86.93)	(9.23)	(3.84)	(100.00)
2. AGRA	92	14	6	112
	(82.14)	(12.50)	(5.36)	(100.00)
TOTAL (1+2)	205	26	11	242
	(84.71)	(10.74)	(4.55)	(100.00)
3. UNA	66	9	5	80
	(82.50)	(11.25)	(6.25)	(100.00)
4. SIRMAUR	65	8	3	76
	(85.53)	(10.53)	(3.94)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	131	17	8	156
	(83.97)	(10.90)	(5.13)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary Data.

TABLE V.9: CLASSIFICATION OF PARENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR VIEWS ON WHO COLLECTED WHEAT/RICE OF MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME

DISTRICT	CHILD HIMSELF	CHILD ACCCOMPANIED BY	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	128	2	130
	(98.46)	(1.54)	(100.00)
2. AGRA	112	—	112
	(100.00)		(100.00)
TOTAL (1 + 2)	240	2	242
	(99.17)	(0.83)	(100.00)
3. UNA	80	—	80
	(100.00)		(100.00)
4. SIRMOUR	61	15	76
	(80.26)	(19.74)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	141	15	156
	(90.38)	(9.62)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary Data.

V.11 PLACE OF DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT/RICE:

The beneficiary students in U.P. reported that Mid-Day Meal was distributed to them at three places namely at their schools, public distribution shops and cooperation stores in U.P. Around half of them reported to have received it at PDS shops and around one-fourth received at their schools and co-operation stores each in U.P. In Himachal Pradesh, the students reported that Mid-Day Meal was provided to them only at co-operative stores as shown in Table V.10. The distance of place of distribution as reported was not far. It was less than 1 km. In Uttar Pradesh as well as in Himachal Pradesh.

V.12 SUPERVISION OF MID-DAY MEAL AT THE TIME OF DISTRIBUTION:

The parents have reported that distribution of Mid-Day Meal was supervised by the headmaster of their schools, any teacher of their schools and gram pradhan of their villages in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as evident in Table V.11.

The role of headmasters in supervision was very important in U.P. as 85 per cent of parents reported that Mid-Day Meal distribution was supervised by them. The role of Gram Pradhan was reported to be insignificant in U.P. In Himachal Pradesh, 84 per cent, 11 per cent and 5 per cent parents reported that Mid-Day Meal was supervised by headmasters, schoolteachers and gram

TABLE V.10: CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS ACCORDING TO PLACE OF DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT/RICE UNDER UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME

DISTRICT	AT SCHOOL	PLACE OF DISTRIBUTION	CO-OPERATIVE STORE	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	25	94	23	142
	(17.60)	(66.20)	(16.20)	(100.00)
2. AGRA	41	30	40	111
	(36.94)	(27.03)	(36.03)	(100.00)
TOTAL (1+2)	66	124	63	253
	(26.09)	(49.01)	(24.90)	(100.00)
3. UNA	—	—	81	81
			(100.00)	(100.00)
4. SIRMAUR	—	—	79	79
			(100.00)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	—	—	160	160
			(100.00)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary Data.

TABLE V.11: CLASSIFICATION OF PARENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR VIEWS ON THE SUPERVISION OF WHEAT/RICE DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME

DISTRICT	SUPERVISION BY:			TOTAL
	HEADMASTER	SCHOOL TEACHER	GRAM PRADHAN	
1. VARANASI	113	12	5	130
	(86.93)	(9.23)	(3.84)	(100.00)
2. AGRA	92	14	6	112
	(82.14)	(12.50)	(5.36)	(100.00)
TOTAL (1+2)	205	26	11	242
	(84.71)	(10.74)	(4.55)	(100.00)
3. UNA	66	9	5	80
	(82.50)	(11.25)	(6.25)	(100.00)
4. SIRMAUR	65	8	3	76
	(85.53)	(10.53)	(3.94)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	131	17	8	156
	(83.97)	(10.90)	(5.13)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary Data.

pradhans. Thus, role of gram panchayats in supervision of distribution of Mid-Day Meal was found to be not much active.

V.13 SATISFACTION OF PARENTS WITH QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF MID-DAY MEALS:

The parents were enquired of their views about the quantity and quality of wheat/rice made available to their wards under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme.

In U.P., only 35 parents reported their satisfaction with the quantity and rest 65 per cent responded otherwise. In Himachal Pradesh, parents' response about quantity was found to be similar to that of their counterparts of U.P.

As far the quality is concerned, 41 per cent parents in U.P. and 32 per cent parents in Himachal Pradesh expressed their satisfaction. In Table V.12, sample parents have been classified accounting to their views on quantity and quality of Mid-Day Meals given to their wards.

Table V.12: CLASSIFICATION OF PARENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR VIEWS ON QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WHEAT/RICE DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME

DISTRICT	SATISFIED WITH QUANTITY			SATISFIED WITH QUALITY		
	YES	NO	TOTAL	YES	NO	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	62	68	30	71	59	130
	(47.69)	(52.31)	(100.00)	(54.62)	(45.38)	
2. AGRA	22	90	112	28	84	112
	(19.64)	(80.36)	(100.00)	(25.00)	(75.00)	
TOTAL (1+2)	84	158	242	99	143	242
	(34.71)	(65.29)	(100.00)	(40.90)	(59.10)	(100.00)
3. UNA	31	49	80	33	47	80
	(38.75)	(61.25)	(100.00)	(41.25)	(58.75)	(100.00)
4. SIRMOUR	25	51	76	17	59	76
	(32.89)	(67.11)	(100.00)	(41.25)	(58.75)	(100.00)
TOTAL (3+4)	56	100	156	50	106	156
	(35.90)	(64.10)	(100.00)	(32.05)	(67.95)	(100.00)

Source: Based on Primary data.

V.14 KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTS ABOUT THE CRITERIA OF MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME:

The sample parents were asked by our research team that do they know about the eligibility criteria on which basis their wards get wheat/rice under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme? It was reported by around 73 per cent of them in U.P. that they were unaware of it. In Himachal Pradesh, around 61 per cent expressed their ignorance about the eligibility of their ward to get Mid-Day Meals as evident in table V.14. In the course of discussion with them in U.P. as well as in Himachal Pradesh, it became evident to us that most of them in U.P. and sizeable number in Himachal Pradesh were not aware of the eligibility criteria as well as the objectives of Mid-Day Meals. The discussion with parents revealed that they generally viewed Mid-Day Meals Scheme as a government scheme to help the primary level students.

V.15 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AS AN INCEN- TIVE TO STUDENTS: PARENTS VIEW:

The sample parents were enquired of their view that whether they feel that Mid-Day Meals was an incentive for their wards to attend school. The replies given by the parents belong to different castes have been classified in Table V.14.

TABLE V.13: KNOWLEDGE OF CRITEIRIA OF MID-DAY MEALS: PARENTS RESPONSE

DISTRICT	YES	NO	TOTAL
1. VARANASI	37 (28.46)	93 (71.54)	130 (100.00)
	29 (25.89)	83 (74.11)	112 (100.00)
2. AGRA	66 (27.27)	176 (72.73)	242 (100.00)
	29 (36.25)	51 (63.75)	80 (100.00)
3. UNA	32 (42.10)	44 (57.90)	76 (100.00)
	61 (39.10)	95 (60.90)	156 (100.00)
TOTAL (1 + 2)			
TOTAL (3+4)			

Source: *Based on Primary Data.*

It became evident that only 38 per cent of parents in U.P. felt that the scheme was an incentive for child in going to school while only 19 per cent parents in Himachal Pradesh held the same view. Thus, 62 per cent of parents in U.P. and 81 per cent in Himachal Pradesh did not view Mid-Day Meals Scheme as an incentive for their children to attend primary school. A higher proportion of parents belonging to socially backward and economically poor castes expressed the view that the scheme was an incentive to their wards.

**TABLE V.14 MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AS AN INCENTIVE TO STUDY AT PRIMARY LEVEL
PARENTS VIEW**

CASTE	VARANASI			AGRA			TOTAL			(Number)
	YES	NO	TOTAL	YES	NO	TOTAL	YES	NO	TOTAL	
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	19	26	45	21	30	51	40	56	96	
	(42.22)	(57.78)	(100.0)	(41.18)	(58.82)	(100.0)	(41.67)	(58.33)	(100.0)	
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	14	26	40	15	23	38	29	49	78	
	(35.00)	(65.00)	(100.0)	(39.47)	(60.53)	(100.0)	(37.18)	(62.82)	(100.0)	
3. MINORITIES	13	23	36	2	2	4	15	25	40	
	(36.11)	(63.89)	(100.0)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(100.0)	(37.50)	(62.50)	(100.0)	
4. GENERAL CASTES	2	7	9	6	13	19	8	20	28	
	(22.22)	(77.78)	(100.0)	(31.58)	(68.42)	(100.0)	(28.57)	(71.43)	(100.0)	
TOTAL (1 to 5)	48	82	130	44	68	112	92	150	242	
	(36.92)	(63.08)	(100.0)	(39.29)	(60.71)	(100.0)	(38.02)	(62.98)	(100.0)	

Table V.14 Contd.

CASTE	UNA			SIRMOUR			TOTAL			(Number)
	YES	NO	TOTAL	YES	NO	TOTAL	YES	NO	TOTAL	
1. SCHEDULED CASTES	8	22	30	3	13	16	11	35	46	
	(26.67)	(73.33)	(100.0)	(18.75)	(81.25)	(100.0)	(23.91)	(76.09)	(100.0)	
2. OTHER BACKWARD CASTES	4	9	13	1	4	5	5	13	18	
	(30.77)	(69.23)	(100.0)	(20.00)	(80.00)	(100.0)	(27.78)	(72.22)	(100.0)	
3. MINORITIES	--	--	--	2	14	16	2	14	16	
				(121.5)	(87.50)	(100.0)	(12.50)	(87.50)	(100.0)	
4. GENERAL CASTES	6	31	37	5	34	39	11	65	76	
	(16.22)	(83.78)	(100.0)	(12.82)	(87.10)	(100.0)	(14.47)	(85.53)	(100.0)	
TOTAL (1 to 5)	18	62	80	11	65	76	29	127	156	
	(22.50)	(77.50)	(100.0)	(14.47)	(85.53)	(100.0)	(18.59)	(81.41)	(100.0)	

Source: Based on Primary Data.

V.16 SUGGESTIONS OF PARENTS ABOUT THE SCHEME:

The sample parents of Varanasi and Agra districts were asked to show their views on the Mid-Day Meals Scheme. The responses given by them have been classified and presented in Table V.15.

In U.P., more than one-fourth of parents were in view that better quality of wheat should be given nearly. Nearly the same proportion of them also said that the quality presently given under the scheme should be increased. Around 18 per cent and 12 per cent of them responded that supply should be made regular and gram panchayat should be involved.

In Himachal Pradesh, 14 parents and 209 parents of parents suggested that quality should be better and quantity should be increased. The regularity of supply and its supervision be made by the gram panchayats, were the views expressed by 13 per cent and 16 per cent of total parents in Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE V.15 : SUGGESTIONS OF PARENTS ABOUT THE MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME

DISTRICT	QUALITY SHOULD BE BETTER	QUANTITY SHOULD BE INCREASED	SUPPLY SHOULD BE REGULAR	UNDER THE SUPERVISIO N OF GRAM PANCHAYAT	SCHEME IS GOOD	NO RESPONSE
1. VARANASI	44 (33.85)	43 (33.08)	24 (18.46)	20 (15.38)	16 (12.31)	9 (6.92)
2. AGRA	21 (18.75)	15 (13.39)	19 (16.96)	9 (8.04)	12 (10.71)	8 (7.14)
TOTAL (1+2)	65 (26.86)	58 (23.97)	43 (17.77)	29 (11.98)	28 (11.57)	17 (7.02)
3. UNA	14 (17.5)	16 (20.00)	12 (15.00)	9 (11.25)	5 (6.25)	30 (37.5)
4. SIRMOUR	8 (10.53)	15 (19.74)	10 (13.16)	12 (15.79)	3 (3.95)	11 (14.47)
TOTAL (3+4)	22 (14.10)	31 (19.87)	22 (14.10)	21 (13.46)	8 (5.13)	41 (26.28)

Source: Based on Primary data.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VI.1 ABOUT THE STUDY

THE World Conference on 'Education For All' held in Thailand during March 1990, reached a consensus based on affirmation of 155 countries including India to achieve the cherished goal of 'Education For All' by 2000 AD. However, the existing scenario of providing compulsory basic education to all children remained almost a distant dream despite the constant governmental efforts. A review of situation calls for the Well Co-ordinated Action Plan. Therefore, to make the Education for All a reality, the government has, in the recent past, instituted several incentive schemes with the main objective that they would prove to be instrumental in influencing favourably the decision of parents belonging to socially backward and economically poor sections of the population for sending their children to schools with a view to

acquire acknowledgement of atleast primary level education. The long-term objective behind these schemes was to bring about a qualitative and quantitative improvement in primary level education.

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Scheme) is one such scheme, which was started in the year 1995-96. It intends to give a boost to universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously aim at improving the nutritional level of students by providing uncooked/cooked meal of 100 gms of foodgrains (wheat or rice) per school day free of cost to each one of the children admitted in a school from Class I to V. As an interim measure, 3 kgs of foodgrains (wheat or rice) per student per month is being distributed presently to these students of the said classes, qualifying for the laid down norm of 80 per cent attendance in a school.

The scheme has been in operation for the last five years, and by now it is expected that the scheme might have proved effective in exercising its role in promotion of the Universalisation of elementary education.

To be surer on this issue, the Planning Commission, Government of India commissioned the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow to carry out an evaluation of this scheme in two states of U.P. and Himachal Pradesh with major focus on the following:

- (i) Impact of Mid-Day Meals Scheme on Enrolment Growth.
- (ii) Mid-Day Meals Scheme and Retention at Primary Level.
- (iii) Mid-Day Meals and School Attendance.
- (iv) Profile and Perceptions of Beneficiaries.

The study was conducted in four districts - two of U.P. and two of Himachal Pradesh. The two districts separately in U.P. and Himachal Pradesh were selected on the basis of average quantity of wheat/rice distributed per month per primary school. Wherein on random basis one district was selected from the list of districts where average quantity of wheat/rice distributed was higher than the state average and the other district was chosen from the list of districts where average quantity of wheat/rice distributed was found to be lower than the state average. Further, the selection of development blocks and primary schools was carried out in both

U.P. and Himachal Pradesh, following the similar kind of methodology. In this way, two districts of Varanasi and Agra in U.P. and two districts of Una and Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh were selected. Out of the selected two districts of U.P., Araji Lines and Cholapur blocks of Varanasi and Barauli Ahir and Fatehabad blocks of Agra were selected. Similarly in Himachal Pradesh, Una-1 and Amb blocks of Una and Saharan and Ponta Saheb blocks of Sirmour were selected. Finally, two primary schools from each of the selected blocks were also selected in U.P. as well as Himachal Pradesh.

This way, in all, two districts, four development blocks and eight primary schools were selected separately from both U.P. and Himachal Pradesh for primary investigations. Besides, 243 students and 243 parents of the selected primary schools in U.P. and 160 students and 156 parents of the selected primary schools in Himachal Pradesh were interviewed through structured questionnaires. The overall analysis is based on the data collected from both the primary as well as the secondary sources.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

VI.2 ENROLMENT GROWTH:

ONE of the objectives of Mid-Day Meals Scheme was to promote enrolment by providing 3 kgs of wheat in U.P. and 3 kgs of rice in Himachal Pradesh as incentive to each student joining the primary schools, subject to having 80 per cent attendance.

The impact of scheme on enrolment growth was examined by comparing the average annual growth rates in enrolment of boys, girls and total students and across different caste groups of the Pre Mid-Day Meal Scheme period (1989-90 to 1993-94) with those of the post Mid-Day Meal Scheme period (1994-95 to 1998-99). Besides, overall trend was also examined for whole of the period from 1989-90 to 1998-99. The analysis was carried on the basis of the data obtained from sample primary schools of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

According to the findings of the study, the average annual growth rates in enrolment of boys, girls and total students in U.P. are

found to be 2.73 per cent, 3.61 per cent and 3.03 respectively during the scheme period as compared to the corresponding percentages of 1.82, 2.91 and 2.18 during the no scheme period. Besides, for whole of the reference period the corresponding percentages work out to 2.33, 3.46 and 2.71 respectively.

Thus, the growth rate of enrolment at the primary level in U.P. is noticed to be became faster during the scheme period. However, the increases in growth rates between the two periods (i.e., pre and post scheme years) are not meaningfully significant.

The analysis further reveals that boys-girls enrolment differential was by 0.88 percentage point during the scheme period as compared to 1.09 percentage point during the pre-scheme period.

Thus, the analysis of enrolment growth in U.P. has clearly demonstrated that the enrolment growth at the primary level has been faster in the scheme years, although the rates are rated to be not very significant. Obviously, it becomes difficult to say something authentically regarding the impact of Mid-Day Scheme on enrolment growth in U.P.

On the other hand, in case of Himachal Pradesh, the annual growth rates in enrolment of boys, girls and total students are calculated at 3.65 per cent, 3.65 per cent and 3.53 per cent respectively during the scheme years. The corresponding percentages are found to be 2.46, 2.49 and 2.48. The corresponding percentages for whole of the reference period are estimated to be 3.07, 2.84 and 2.95 respectively.

Thus, differentials in the annual growth rates between the two period are discernable as 1.19, 1.16 and 1.05 percentage points in respect of boys, girls and total students enrolment respectively . However, these differentials appear to be not meaningfully significant in the wake of many programmes on-going including Mid-Day Meals Scheme in Himachal Pradesh. The analysis has further indicated that there has been not much difference in boys-girls enrolment in Himachal Pradesh also.

The comparison of enrolment growth in U.P. with that of Himachal Pradesh suggests that the growth in U.P. was relatively lower in almost all the cases under review excepting enrolment growth of girl students during the pre-scheme years, which higher by 0.42 percentage points in U.P. than that of Himachal Pradesh.

The computation of caste-wise enrolment growth shows that during the scheme years enrolment growth has been better in respect of every caste-groups in U.P. The difference in percentage points between the pre and the post scheme periods are found to be 1.21, 0.80, 0.33 and 0.54 in enrolment of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, minority and general castes students respectively.

On the other hand, in Himachal Pradesh, the enrolment growth of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, and Muslim students experienced a nominal rise between the two reference periods. It was only the enrolment of general castes students that increased by 1.67 percentage points during scheme years. Thus, in Himachal Pradesh also, the Mid-Day Meals Scheme appears to have had a negligible impact on enrolment growth of socially backward and economically poor sections of the society.

The comparison of caste-wise enrolment growth in U.P. with Himachal Pradesh indicates that during the pre and the post scheme years, enrolment growth of primary level students belonging to Other Backward Castes and general Castes has been

higher by less than one percentage point, whereas enrolment of Scheduled Castes and Muslim students in Himachal Pradesh has shown a better performance than U.P. during both the periods but by a narrow margin only.

Thus, the analysis of enrolment growth either sex-wise or caste-wise has not shown a substantial increase during the implementation period of Mid-Day Meals Scheme. It appears that whatever growth in enrolment of students has been experienced in both U.P. and Himachal Pradesh is not solely because of the Mid-Day Meals Scheme. The other factors like population growth and implementation of similar schemes might have been equally responsible for the increased performance. Under such circumstances, it is really a difficult task to ascertain the exclusive contribution of the Mid-Day Meals Scheme to enrolment growth during the scheme period.

VI.3 RETENTION AT PRIMARY LEVEL:

THE objective of Mid-Day Meals Scheme was also to increase the retention so that a larger number of children could atleast complete the primary level education. To assess and analyse this aspect,

the retention of Class-I students, enrolled in 1989-90 was calculated during the year 1993-94 and that of Class-I students enrolled in 1994-95 was computed in 1998-99, the completion year of the primary level education. The retention rates were calculated by taking enrolment in each class (Class II to V) as a percentage to enrolment in Class - I without considering new entrants and repeaters. The wastage rates which indicate drop-outs were also calculated by subtracting the retention from enrolment, considering enrolment as 100.

The retention rates starting from Class-I in 1989-90 to Class-V in 1993-94, at the combined level of Varanasi and Agra districts in U.P showed that around 76 per cent of boys, 64 per cent of girls and 72 per cent of total primary students, who were enrolled in Class-I in 1989-90 reached the Class-V in 1993-94. In other words, the drop-out rates of boys, girls and total primary students are 24 per cent, 36 per cent and 28 per cent respectively upto Class-V. The retention of girls against boys are lower by 12 percentage points.

The retention rates during the Mid-Day Meal years appear to have increased by 77 per cent of boys, 66 per cent of girls and 73 per

cent of total students. The differential in retention between boys and girls also narrowed down by 10.34 percentage points during this period.

However, the increment in retention rates between the two periods is to the tune of only 0.54, 2.52 and 1.09 percentage points in case of boys, girls and total students, which appear to be not very significant in wake of long period considered and the persistence of sizeable drop-out of 23 per cent of boys, 34 per cent of girls and 27 per cent of total students during the period of Mid-Day Meals Scheme in U.P.

Turning to the analysis of retention rates in Himachal Pradesh, it is observed that 18 per cent of students (boys, girls and total students) could not complete the primary level education and dropped out during the intermittent years before Mid-Day Meals Scheme. During the Scheme years, 12 per cent of boys, 13 per cent of girls and 15 per cent of total students failed to complete their primary level education.

Thus, the retention level in Himachal Pradesh is found to have increased by 1.40 percentage points of boys, 4.90 percentage

points of girls and 3.08 percentage points of total students during the scheme period over the base of non-scheme period.

A comparison of retention rates in U.P. with that of Himachal Pradesh indicates that these rates are much higher in Himachal Pradesh as against those in U.P. The retention rates of boys, girls and total students are higher by 5.55 percentage points, 17.94 percentage points and 9.74 percentage points respectively during the period of pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme. Whereas, during the period of Mid-Day Meals Scheme, the retention rates are significantly higher by 6.38 percentage points in case of boys, 20.32 percentage points in case of girls and 11.73 percentage points in case of total primary level students in Himachal Pradesh as against the base of U.P.

The computation of caste-wise retention rates shows that the retention level of general castes students increased maximum by 3.78 percentage points followed by 2.30 percentage points in scheduled castes, 1.12 percentage points of minority students and 0.98 percentage points in other backward castes during the pre and post scheme periods in U.P. However, the growth of retention

does not appear to be significant in view of a decade's period considered in the analysis.

Contrary to the above, the retention levels of scheduled castes, other backward castes, minorities and general castes students in Himachal Pradesh, which work out to 76 per cent, 70 per cent, 80 per cent, 82 per cent and 90 per cent for the period of Pre-Mid Day Meals Scheme, have increased to 83 per cent, 76 per cent, 80 per cent and 91 per cent of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, Minority and General Castes students respectively during post-Mid-Day Meals Scheme. Thus, taking into account the constant retention rate of general castes students and decline in retention level of minority students, there appears to have been a wider scope for increasing the retention levels of different castes in Himachal Pradesh during the period of Mid-Day Meals Scheme.

The comparative performance of U.P. vis-à-vis Himachal Pradesh indicates that retention of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes students in Himachal Pradesh increased by 7.77 percentage points and 5.86 percentage points respectively as compared to the corresponding increases of 2.30 percentage points and 0.98 percentage points in U.P. The retention of general

castes increased by 3.78 percentage points in U.P. as against 1.29 percentage points in Himachal Pradesh. The retention level of minorities declined in both the states by 1.12 percentage points in U.P. and 1.82 percentage points in Himachal Pradesh. However, overall situation suggests that there has been a better retention level of primary students belonging to different caste-groups in Himachal Pradesh as against their counterpart in Uttar Pradesh.

VI.4 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

As envisaged in the scheme, the benefit of providing 3 kgs of wheat/rice has been linked with the completion of 80 per cent attendance by beneficiary students. Therefore, changes in attendance rates were examined in the light of this objective also. The analysis shows that in U.P., attendance rates of boys, girls and total students of Class I to V, which are found to be 77.43 per cent, 75.64 per cent and 76.86 per cent respectively in 1994-95, have increased to 79.78 per cent, 78.06 per cent and 79.19 per cent respectively in 1998-99. The attendance rates of girls in each and every case are found to be lower than that of boys. The overall review suggests that the attendance rates have not

persistently gone up during each of the scheme years, painting both rosy and un-rosy scenes in intermittent years of the scheme.

Tuning to Himachal Pradesh, we notice that attendance rates of boys, girls and total students at the primary level increased respectively from 84.45 per cent, 84.89 per cent and 84.66 per cent in 1994-95 to 87.37 per cent, 86.85 per cent and 87.12 per cent during 1998-99. Thus, in spite of showing a better performance in attendance rates, the growth as noticed remained limited to 2.92, 1.96 and 2.46 percentage points in the attendance of boys, girls and total students respectively in Himachal Pradesh during the scheme period.

Moreover, the comparative analysis suggests that the attendance rates in U. P. are significantly lower than those of Himachal Pradesh. Besides, there appears to have been a marked difference in attendance rates between boys and girls in U.P., whereas such differences in Himachal Pradesh are found to be insignificant.

The caste-wise attendance rates have not shown any consistency in growth over the period in U.P. On the contrary, in Himachal Pradesh, attendance rates of scheduled caste students increased

by 3.59 percentage points followed by the compounding increases in percentage points of 2.41, 1.96 and 0.14 in cases of Other Backward Castes, General Castes and Muslim students respectively.

Further, a comparative analysis pertaining to U.P. and Himachal Pradesh has clearly demonstrated that attendance rates of students of different castes in the former are generally lower than those of the latter excepting the general caste students of U.P., showing the attendance rates higher than those of Himachal Pradesh.

VI.5 PROFILE AND PERCEPTION OF BENEFICIARIES:

The socio-economic analysis of the beneficiaries belonging to different castes reveals that most of them availing the benefits of Mid-Day Meals Scheme are of poor socio-economic background in U.P. Whereas nearly half of the total beneficiaries of this scheme belonged to upper castes in Himachal Pradesh.

The average family size of sample beneficiaries in U.P. is 5.79 persons as against 4.78 persons in Himachal Pradesh. Analysis of data combined together of Varanasi and Agra districts reveals that

84.51 per cent of total population of school-age children (6-11 years) have joined the primary schools in U.P. But the proportions of school going children of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes and minorities are found to be lower than those of general castes in U.P.

Whereas the proportion of children joining the primary level education to the total population of school aged children (6-11 years) in Himachal Pradesh is tend to be as higher as 93.92 per cent. Besides, a sizeable differences in proportions of school going children of different castes are also noticed in Himachal Pradesh.

To add further, the population of school aged children (6-11 years) per household was approximately 11 per cent greater in U.P. than in Himachal Pradesh. It is, however, interesting to record that the average number of school going children per household for U.P. and Himachal Pradesh both, works out to 1.83 only. Probably because of higher average size of household in U.P., the percentage of school going boys and girls to total population of school aged is 84.51 per cent only in U.P. as against the corresponding percentage of the total 94.68 in Himachal Pradesh.

Thus, proportion of total school-aged children not going to school was much higher (nearly 17 per cent) in U.P. as compared with only 5 per cent in Himachal Pradesh. Besides the education level of beneficiary parents is comparatively low in U.P. as compared to their counterparts of Himachal Pradesh.

In U.P. on an average each students got 19.32 kgs. Of wheat in 1998-99, whereas in Himachal Pradesh the corresponding quantity as reported was 22.95 kgs. According to beneficiary parents, the entire quantity of wheat/rice given to their wards is consumed within a week's time and its major portion is consumed by the entire family members. The beneficiary parents in U.P. as well as in Himachal Pradesh have reported that their wards generally get the Mid-Day Meals wheat/rice themselves. In U.P., MMS wheat/rice is reported to have been distributed to the students of selected schools through three channels namely the school itself, the PDS shop and the co-operative store. Whereas in Himachal Pradesh, this distribution is being done through co-operative stores only. The role of gram panchayats in the distribution of Mid-Day Meals is reported to be almost negligible in both U.P. as well as Himachal Pradesh.

Approximately 35 per cent of the total beneficiary parents have reported to be satisfied with the quantity of wheat/rice given under the scheme in both the states under review. So far as quality is concerned, 41 per cent parents in U.P. and 32 per cent parents in Himachal Pradesh have reported to be satisfied. Moreover, around 73 per cent parents in U.P. and 61 per cent in Himachal Pradesh have expressed their ignorance about the eligibility of their wards to get Mid-Day Meal. Besides, 62 per cent parents in U.P. and as high as 81 per cent in Himachal Pradesh have expressed their feeling that Mid-Day Meals Scheme is not proving any kind of effective incentive to their children for going to the schools. However, majority of the parents belonging to socially backward and economically weaker sections of the society have reported to be satisfied with the scheme and its implementation.

The important among the suggestions forwarded by the parents to bring further improvements in the Mid-Day Meals Scheme consist of (I) improvement in quality of wheat/rice, (II) enhancement in quantity, (III) regular supply and (IV) involvement of gram panchayats in the management of Mid-Day Meals Scheme in U.P. as well as Himachal Pradesh.

VI.6 RECOMMENDATIONS:

WHILE SUMMING UP, it appears that the Mid-Day Meals Scheme has not played a very significant role in increasing enrolment, retention and attendance of the students at the primary level education in both U.P. as well as Himachal Pradesh. The quantity of wheat/rice distributed to the students in both the states is reported to have been irregular and less than the prescribed norm of 30 kgs per child per month for ten months in an academic session. Besides, whatever is given to a child under the scheme is mostly consumed by the entire family and not by the child alone and that too within not more than a weeks time. Thus, the very purpose of improving nutritional level of students through the Mid-Day Meals Scheme is jeopardized to a large extent.

Most precisely, owing to the irregular and inadequate supply of wheat/rice and lack of efficient supervising mechanism, the overall objective of the scheme could be achieved partially only. As deciphers, the scheme, at present provides very little incentive directly to students and the lion share of the total benefits of the scheme is being appropriated by the other members of the beneficiary households. Thus, it appears that the scheme needs to be redesigned in a manner, which could ensure percolation of

scheme benefits directly to the students. The existing arrangement of providing incentive to students through Mid-Day Meals as it operates today does not seem to have proved effective. Neither the scheme provides regular incentive nor it has potency to improve nutritional levels of the children in its present form.

Therefore, looking to the deficiencies of present delivery system of the scheme and the lack of proper administration in its implementation, it is recommended that delivery mechanism and its management should be restructured. For this, it is proposed that a provision of 3 kgs of wheat/rice at long intervals should be replaced by a system through which any food item in eatable form should be provided to primary level students daily during interval noon time. Here, the possibility of cooking food in the school premise is ruled out, because it may not prove to be more remunerative to students in the states like U.P., where management and other related problems are bound to defeat the objectives. Alternatively, it is hoped that a provision of distributing Wet or boiled/baked gram serviced by the students themselves and managed and supervised by the Gram Panchayats could better serve the purpose. The Gram Panchayats should be made

wholly responsible for implementation of the scheme. The gram panchayats should obtain the quota of Mid-Day Meals Scheme and store it by themselves. This quota should be made available for distribution quarterly during a year. After getting the quota, the gram panchayats should release its required quantity to schools under its jurisdiction weekly @ 100 gm per student per day. In this way, 5-6 kgs of gram will be needed by a school daily and the stock for a week can easily be stored in school building. The headmaster should be made responsible for managing its distribution among the students daily.

However, the problem of primary level education cannot be tackled easily by incentive schemes because the decision of not sending a child to school is influenced more by traditional rigidities of the villagers and less because of poverty and other related factors including lack of awareness on the part of parents. Awareness is to be generated among the masses about the need and importance of basic education on one hand and the quality of education on the other. To this end, panchayats should be made accountable for compulsory basic education of children in their respective panchayats and may be given monetary incentive, if the need be, on performance basis.

ANNEXURE-1: NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF U.P. (1998-99)

SL. NO.	DISTRICTS	NO. OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS	QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED (QUINTALS)	AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL (QUINTALS)
1.	MEERUT	891	32411.92	36.38
2.	BAGHPAT	452	19160.16	42.39
3.	BULANDSHAHAR	1224	46632.81	38.10
4.	GHAZIABAD	739	26450.88	35.79
5.	GAUTAMBUDHANAGAR	364	18523.56	50.89
6.	SAHARANPUR	1149	47504.22	41.34
7.	HARIDWAR	581	24389.04	41.98
8.	MUZAFFARNAGAR	1261	45399.99	36.00
9.	AGRA*	1410	18547.79	13.15
10.	ALIGARH	1102	36754.79	33.35
11.	MAHAMAYANAGAR	764	24905.76	32.60
12.	ETAH	1338	45734.30	34.18
13.	FIROZABAD	828	12725.21	15.37
14.	MATHURA	1032	14766.33	14.31
15.	MAINPURI	943	12599.64	13.36
16.	BAREILLY	1553	60269.96	38.81
17.	BADAUN	1464	63192.17	43.16
18.	PILIBHIT	826	37484.23	45.38
19.	SHAHJAHANPUR	1360	48885.55	35.93
20.	ALLAHABAD	1629	102223.26	62.75
21.	KAUSHAMBHI	614	17681.71	28.80
22.	FATEHPUR	1317	27215.71	20.66
23.	PRATAPGARH	1445	54600.93	37.79

24.	VARANASI*	840	52267.04	62.22
25.	GHAZIPUR	1332	57333.54	43.04
26.	CHANDOULI	710	26139.20	50.90
27.	JAUNPUR	1843	955033.07	36.82
28.	MIRZAPUR	1197	49195.32	41.10
29.	SONEBHADRA	794	84675.35	31.08
30.	ST. RAVINDARS NAGAR	439	21160.10	48.20
31.	LUCKNOW	1113	84006.06	21.57
32.	SITAPUR	2196	70146.13	31.94
33.	LAKHIMPURKHERI	1657	65005.51	39.23
34.	HARDOI	1838	61806.06	33.63
35.	UNNAO	1645	44686.62	27.17
36.	RAIBAREILLY	1455	53665.43	36.88
37.	GORAKHPUR	1670	37654.32	22.55
38.	KUSHINAGAR	1126	31692.32	28.15
39.	DEORIA	1371	40124.10	29.27
40.	MAHARAJGANJ	724	30000.12	41.44
41.	BASTI	1131	15626.79	13.82
42.	SIDDARTH NAGAR	885	12710.15	14.36
43.	ST. KABIR NAGAR	585	9721.44	16.62
44.	AZAMGARH	1722	83935.94	48.74
45.	MAU	912	43672.44	47.89
46.	BALLIA	1403	33697.07	24.02
47.	JHANSI	911	28021.79	30.76
48.	HAMEERPUR	688	10121.85	14.71
49.	JALAUN	1120	28021.79	25.02
50.	LALITPUR	645	27238.74	42.23
51.	BANDA	933	29982.55	32.14
52.	MAHOBA	589	13207.96	22.42
53.	SHAUJI MAHARAJ NAGAR	523	15239.05	29.14
54.	FAIZABAD	1093	25276.20	23.13

55.	AMBEDKAR NAGAR	957	27409.20	28.64
56.	BARABANKI	1467	40038.59	27.89
57.	SULTANPUR	2098	33574.86	16.00
58.	GONDA	1439	22650.31	15.74
59.	BALRAMPUR	867	14136.10	16.30
60.	SHRAWASTI	758	26710.26	35.24
61.	BAHRAICH	1349	50338.94	37.32
62.	MURADABAD	1416	54803.82	38.70
63.	RAMPUR	955	27263.70	28.55
64.	BIJNUR	1378	51284.00	37.22
65.	JYOTI BAPHULEY NAGAR	808	23310.66	28.85
66.	KANPUR NAGAR	1406	18480.30	13.14
67.	KANPUR DEHAT	1105	14213.72	12.86
68.	ETAWA	778	14346.48	18.44
69.	AURIEYA	638	13041.96	20.44
70.	KANNAUJ	676	23245.60	34.39
71.	FARUKKHABAD	940	24921.81	26.51
72.	NAINITAL	857	11190.76	13.06
73.	UDHAM SINGH NAGAR	607	12588.81	20.74
74.	PITHORAGARH	875	10909.55	12.47
75.	CHAMPAWAT	293	4872.01	16.63
76.	ALMORA	1559	24627.60	15.80
77.	PAURI GARHWAL	1566	18834.34	12.03
78.	TEHRI GHARWAL	1204	17999.83	14.95
79.	UTTARKASHI	537	10121.13	18.85
80.	DESHRADUN	823	10881.39	13.22
81.	CHAMOLI	997	19094.99	19.15
UTTAR PRADESH		87729	3600014.49	41.06

NB: * Denotes sample District.

Source: Directorate of Primary Education, Government of U.P., Lucknow.

ANNEXURE-II: NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND AVERAGE QUANTITY DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL: VARANASI DISTRICT, U.P. (1998-99)

SL. NO.	BLOCKS	NO. OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS	QUANTITY OF WHEAT DIS- TRIBUTED (QUINTALS)	AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL (QUINTALS)
1.	CHIRAGAON	85	7235.40	85.12
2.	HARAUHUA	83	7014.90	84.52
3.	ARAJI LINES*	100	10697.10	106.97
4.	SEVA PURI	69	6243.60	90.49
5.	PINDARA	104	8621.40	82.89
6.	KASHI VIDYAPEETH	66	5702.10	86.39
7.	BADAGAON	75	6507.60	86.77
8.	CHOLAPUR*	91	7302.60	80.25
DISTRICT		673	59324.70	88.15

N.B.: * Denotes Sample Block.

Source: *Office of the Basic Siksha Adhikari (BSA) Varanasi, U.P.*

No. 3

ANNEXURE-III: NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, QUANTITY OF WHEAT DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND AVERAGE QUANTITY DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL: AGRA DISTRICT, U.P. (1998-99)

SL. NO.	BLOCKS	No. of Primary Schools	Quantity of wheat distributed (Quintals)	Average Quantity of wheat distri- buted per Primary School (Quintals)
1.	ACHNERA	77	747.06	9.70
2.	AKOLA	67	467.34	6.97
3.	BAH	81	816.48	10.08
4.	BAROLL AHIR*	98	1958.10	19.98
5.	BICH PURI	63	1093.98	17.36
6.	EDMADPUR	87	1273.68	14.64
7.	FATEHPUR SIKRI	75	1304.85	17.39
8.	FATEHABAD*	117	805.77	6.88
9.	JAGNER	58	776.49	13.38
10.	JETPUR KALAN	90	655.50	7.28
11.	KHANDAULI	83	719.58	8.67
12.	KHERAGARH	74	1181.28	15.96
13.	PINHAT	65	874.62	13.46
14.	SIGAN	77	1080.54	14.03
15.	SAMSHABAD	106	1679.02	15.83
DISTRICT		1218	15434.29	12.67

N.B. : * Denotes Sample Block.

Source: Office of the Basic Siksha Adhikari (BSA), Agra, U.P.

ANNEXURE-IV: NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, QUANTITY OF RICE DISTRIBUTED UNDER MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND AVERAGE QUANTITY OF RICE DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH (1998-99)

SL. NO.	DISTRICTS	No. of Primary Schools	Quantity of Rice Distributed (Quintals)	Average Quantity of Rice Distributed Per Primary School (Quintals)
1.	BILASPUR	573	12115.80	21.14
2.	CHAMBA	1048	19202.40	18.32
3.	HAMIRPUR	486	12048.60	24.79
4.	KANGRA	1697	40904.40	24.10
5.	KINNAUR	185	2986.20	16.14
6.	KULLU	683	15699.30	22.99
7.	LAHUL AND SPITI	194	1102.50	5.68
8.	MANDI	166	31487.10	189.68
9.	SHIMLA	1591	23029.80	14.48
10.	SIRMAUR*	920	19329.30	21.01
11.	SOLAN	750	15309.90	20.41
12.	UNA*	485	15045.60	31.02
HIMACHAL PRADESH		8778	208260.90	23.73

N.B. : * Denotes Sample District.

Source: Directorate of Primary Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

**ANNEXURE-V: NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, QUANTITY OF RICE DISTRI-BUTED
UNDER THE MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND AVERAGE QUANTITY
DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL: UNA DISTRICT, H.P. (1998-
99)**

SL. NO.	BLOCKS	No. of Primary Schools	Quantity of Rice distributed (Quintals)	Average Quantity of Rice Distribu- ted Per Primary School: Una District, H.P. (1998-99) (Q;quintals)
1.	GAGRIT - I	74	1574.79	21.29
2.	GAGRIT - II	94	1736.77	18.48
3.	BANGANA	102	1908.24	18.71
4.	AMB*	94	2406.90	25.61
5.	UNA - I*	76	1366.78	17.98
6.	UNA - II	65	1533.77	23.60
DISTRICT		505	10527.25	20.85

* Denotes Sample Block.

Source: Office of the District Primary Education Officer (DPEO), Una District, Shimla (H.P.)

ANNEXURE-VI: NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, QUANTITY OF RICE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE MID-DAY MEALS SCHEME AND AVERAGE QUANTITY DISTRIBUTED PER PRIMARY SCHOOL: SIRMAUR DISTRICT, H.P. (1998-99)

SL. NO.	BLOCKS	No. of Primary Schools	Quantity of Rice Distributed (Quintals)	Average Quantity of Rice Distributed Per Primary School (Quintals)
1.	DADAHU	75	1351.16	18.02
2.	BAKRAS	85	782.47	9.21
3.	SATAUN	130	2015.90	15.21
4.	POANTA*	120	2928.50	24.40
5.	NAHAN	68	556.53	8.18
6.	SURLA	57	598.08	10.49
7.	RAJGARH	105	1060.95	10.15
8.	SARAHAN*	135	749.66	5.55
9.	SHALAI	82	1069.17	13.04
10.	NOURADHAR	95	727.26	7.66
DISTRICT		952	11839.68	12.44

* Denotes Sample Blocks

Source: Office of the District Primary Education Officer (DPEO), Sirmaur, District Shimla (H.P.)

**ANNEXURE VII : ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN VARANASI
DISTRICT OF U.P. : 1989-90 TO 1998-99**

(Number)

YEAR	CLASS - I			CLASS - II			CLASS - III		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	191	95	286	196	91	287	193	89	282
1990-91	193	46	289	199	91	290	194	90	284
1991-92	196	103	299	206	94	300	196	93	289
1992-93	199	109	308	208	103	311	207	101	308
1993-94	208	110	318	211	111	322	210	105	315
1994-95	211	113	324	216	111	327	215	111	326
1995-96	220	115	335	219	116	335	219	114	333
1996-97	222	118	340	229	119	348	223	117	340
1997-98	225	122	347	231	123	354	227	119	346
1998-99	229	123	352	237	129	366	234	122	356

YEAR	CLASS - IV			CLASS - V			TOTAL (I to V)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	191	82	273	190	78	268	961	435	1396
1990-91	193	83	276	192	77	269	971	437	1408
1991-92	199	85	284	194	79	273	991	454	1445
1992-93	202	89	291	195	80	275	1011	482	1493
1993-94	203	90	293	196	79	275	1028	495	1523
1994-95	209	90	299	196	82	278	1047	507	1554
1995-96	213	96	309	197	86	283	1068	527	1595
1996-97	215	99	314	200	89	289	1089	542	1631
1997-98	220	101	321	202	91	293	1105	556	1661
1998-99	223	101	324	205	93	298	1128	568	1696

Source: Based on the Data Collected from the Four Sample Primary Schools of the District.

**ANNEXURE VIII: ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN AGRA
DISTRICT OF U.P. : 1989-90 TO 1998-99**

(Number)

YEAR	CLASS - I			CLASS - II			CLASS - III		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	51	29	80	50	29	79	48	28	76
1990-91	52	30	82	49	30	79	49	29	78
1991-92	54	31	85	47	30	77	50	30	80
1992-93	63	34	97	59	31	90	52	33	85
1993-94	66	37	103	60	30	90	58	34	92
1994-95	75	41	116	76	42	118	55	34	89
1995-96	78	44	122	77	45	122	61	36	97
1996-97	82	47	129	82	49	131	65	37	102
1997-98	86	51	137	84	53	137	81	39	120
1998-99	86	55	141	87	57	114	86	42	128

YEAR	CLASS - IV			CLASS - V			TOTAL (I TO V)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	41	26	67	40	27	67	230	139	369
1990-91	42	27	69	38	26	64	230	142	372
1991-92	40	27	67	40	27	67	231	145	376
1992-93	44	28	72	41	28	69	259	154	413
1993-94	43	30	73	38	30	68	265	161	426
1994-95	45	32	77	42	30	72	293	179	472
1995-96	46	30	76	45	31	76	307	186	493
1996-97	49	31	80	47	30	77	325	194	519
1997-98	51	33	84	50	31	81	352	207	559
1998-99	53	34	87	51	33	84	363	221	584

Source : Based on the data collected from the Four Sample Primary Schools of the District.

**ANNEXURE IX: ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN UTTAR PRADESH:
1989-90 TO 1998-99**

(Number)

YEAR	CLASS - I			CLASS - II			CLASS - III		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	242	124	366	246	120	366	241	117	358
1990-91	245	126	371	248	121	369	243	119	362
1991-92	250	134	384	253	124	377	246	123	369
1992-93	262	143	405	267	134	401	259	134	393
1993-94	274	147	421	271	141	412	268	139	407
1994-95	286	154	440	292	153	445	270	145	415
1995-96	298	159	457	296	161	457	280	150	430
1996-97	304	165	469	311	168	479	288	154	442
1997-98	311	173	484	315	176	491	308	158	466
1998-99	315	178	493	324	186	510	320	164	484

YEAR	CLASS - IV			CLASS - V			TOTAL (I TO V)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	232	108	340	230	105	335	1191	574	1765
1990-91	235	110	345	230	103	333	1201	579	1780
1991-92	239	112	351	234	106	340	1222	599	1821
1992-93	246	117	363	236	108	344	1270	636	1906
1993-94	246	120	366	234	109	343	1293	656	1949
1994-95	254	122	376	238	112	350	1340	686	2026
1995-96	259	126	385	242	117	359	1375	713	2088
1996-97	264	130	394	247	119	366	1414	736	2150
1997-98	271	134	405	252	122	374	1457	763	2220
1998-99	276	135	411	256	126	382	1491	789	2280

Source: Based on the Annexure VII and VIII.

**ANNEXURE X : ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN UNA DISTRICT OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH : 1989-90 TO 1998-99**

(Number)

YEAR	CLASS - I			CLASS - II			CLASS - III		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	53	50	103	52	50	102	55	48	103
1990-91	54	51	105	53	51	104	56	49	105
1991-92	55	53	108	55	52	107	56	51	107
1992-93	60	54	114	56	54	110	59	51	110
1993-94	62	59	121	58	55	113	62	52	114
1994-95	63	53	116	61	56	118	60	57	117
1995-96	66	53	119	65	58	123	62	58	120
1996-97	67	58	125	67	60	127	62	60	122
1997-98	71	60	131	70	61	130	65	60	125
1998-99	73	61	134	72	63	135	67	62	129

YEAR	CLASS - IV			CLASS - V			TOTAL (I TO V)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	52	50	102	46	44	90	258	242	500
1990-91	55	50	105	46	44	90	264	245	509
1991-92	53	51	104	48	45	93	267	252	519
1992-93	54	52	106	49	45	94	278	256	534
1993-94	54	53	107	48	47	95	284	266	550
1994-95	56	58	114	51	50	101	291	274	565
1995-96	56	56	112	53	51	104	302	276	578
1996-97	59	63	122	53	53	106	308	294	602
1997-98	61	62	123	54	51	105	321	294	615
1998-99	62	63	125	54	52	106	328	301	629

Source: Based on the Data collected from the Four Sample Primary School of the District.

**ANNEXURE XI : ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN SIRMAUR
DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH : 1989-90 TO 1998-99**

(Number)

YEAR	CLASS - I			CLASS - II			CLASS - III		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	50	59	109	50	48	98	50	51	101
1990-91	50	60	110	51	50	101	52	52	104
1991-92	52	62	114	53	52	105	52	53	105
1992-93	53	63	116	54	54	108	54	56	110
1993-94	57	65	122	55	56	111	56	56	112
1994-95	66	66	132	55	56	111	58	60	118
1995-96	73	69	142	56	58	114	60	64	124
1996-97	73	70	143	61	60	121	63	71	134
1997-98	75	75	150	65	65	130	65	64	129
1998-99	77	80	157	66	70	136	68	65	133

YEAR	CLASS - IV			CLASS - V			TOTAL (I TO V)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	51	36	86	43	33	76	244	226	470
1990-91	52	35	87	43	36	79	248	233	481
1991-92	55	38	93	47	35	82	259	240	499
1992-93	54	38	92	48	35	83	263	246	509
1993-94	54	40	94	50	37	87	272	254	526
1994-95	60	42	102	54	38	92	293	262	555
1995-96	61	43	104	56	40	96	306	274	580
1996-97	63	45	108	57	41	98	317	287	604
1997-98	65	48	113	61	45	106	331	297	628
1998-99	70	50	120	63	45	108	344	310	654

Source: Based on the Data collected from the Four Sample Primary School of the District.

Date ↗

ANNEXURE XII : ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH : 1989-90 TO 1998-99

(Number)

YEAR	CLASS - I			CLASS - II			CLASS - III		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	103	109	212	102	98	200	105	99	204
1990-91	104	111	215	104	101	205	108	101	209
1991-92	107	115	222	108	104	212	108	104	212
1992-93	113	117	230	110	108	218	113	107	220
1993-94	119	124	243	113	111	224	118	108	226
1994-95	129	119	248	116	112	229	118	117	235
1995-96	139	122	261	121	116	237	122	122	244
1996-97	140	128	268	128	120	248	125	131	256
1997-98	146	135	281	135	126	260	130	124	254
1998-99	150	141	291	138	133	271	135	127	262

YEAR	CLASS - IV			CLASS - V			TOTAL (I TO V)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1989-90	103	85	188	89	77	166	502	468	970
1990-91	107	85	192	89	80	169	512	478	990
1991-92	108	89	197	95	80	175	526	492	1018
1992-93	108	90	198	97	80	177	541	502	1043
1993-94	108	93	201	98	84	182	556	520	1076
1994-95	116	100	216	105	88	193	584	536	1120
1995-96	117	99	216	109	91	200	608	550	1158
1996-97	122	108	230	110	94	204	625	581	1206
1997-98	126	110	236	115	96	211	652	591	1243
1998-99	132	113	245	117	97	214	672	611	1283

Source: Based on the Annexure X and XI.

**ANNEXURE XIII : CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN
VARANASI DISTRICT OF U.P. : 1989-90 TO 1998-99**

YEAR	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTE	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL (I TO V)
1989-90	235	1013	90	58	1396
1990-91	234	1020	93	61	1408
1991-92	240	1045	97	63	1445
1992-93	255	1078	93	67	1493
1993-94	269	1097	89	68	1523
1994-95	276	1111	92	75	1554
1995-96	285	1137	94	79	1595
1996-97	299	1157	94	81	1631
1997-98	306	1177	96	82	1661
1998-99	312	1191	99	94	1696

Source: Based on the Data collected from the Four Sample Primary Schools of the Varanasi District.

ANNEXURE XIV : CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN AGRA DISTRICT OF U.P. : 1989-90 TO 1998-99

YEAR	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTE	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL (I TO V)
1989-90	62	268	24	15	369
1990-91	62	269	25	16	372
1991-92	65	272	23	16	376
1992-93	72	298	26	17	413
1993-94	74	309	25	18	426
1994-95	90	326	30	26	472
1995-96	98	337	29	29	493
1996-97	95	368	30	26	519
1997-98	103	393	32	31	559
1998-99	109	403	35	37	584

Source: Based on the Data collected from the Four Sample Primary Schools of the District.

ANNEXURE XV : CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN UTTAR PRADESH: 1989-90 TO 1998-99

YEAR	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTE	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL (I TO V)
1989-90	297	1281	114	73	1765
1990-91	296	1289	118	77	1780
1991-92	305	1317	120	79	1821
1992-93	327	1376	119	84	1906
1993-94	343	1406	114	86	1949
1994-95	366	1437	122	101	2026
1995-96	383	1474	123	108	2088
1996-97	394	1525	124	107	2150
1997-98	409	1570	128	113	2220
1998-99	421	1594	134	131	2280

Source: Annexure XIII and XIV.

ANNEXURE XVI : CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN UNA DISTRICT OF H.P.: 1989-90 TO 1998-99

YEAR	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTE	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL (I TO V)
1989-90	95	195	--	210	500
1990-91	97	200	--	212	509
1991-92	99	204	--	216	519
1992-93	107	202	--	225	534
1993-94	113	205	--	232	550
1994-95	120	207	--	238	565
1995-96	124	211	--	243	578
1996-97	130	222	--	250	602
1997-98	133	222	--	260	615
1998-99	132	214	--	283	629

Source: Based on the Data collected from the Four Sample Primary Schools of the Una District.

ANNEXURE XVII : CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN SIRMOUR DISTRICT OF H.P.: 1989-90 TO 1998-99

YEAR	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTE	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL (I TO V)
1989-90	91	37	38	304	470
1990-91	93	39	39	310	481
1991-92	98	40	42	319	499
1992-93	106	41	38	324	509
1993-94	111	42	40	333	526
1994-95	120	51	42	342	555
1995-96	128	52	43	357	580
1996-97	238	55	44	367	604
1997-98	131	59	44	394	628
1998-99	149	61	45	399	654

Source: Based on the Data collected from the Four Sample Primary Schools of the Sirmour District.

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ANNEXURE XVIII : CASTE-WISE ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY LEVEL (CLASS I TO V) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: 1989-90 TO 1998-99

YEAR	SCHEDULED CASTES	OTHER BACKWARD CASTE	MINORITIES	GENERAL CASTES	TOTAL (I TO V)
1989-90	186	232	38	514	970
1990-91	190	239	39	522	990
1991-92	197	244	42	535	1018
1992-93	213	243	38	549	1043
1993-94	224	247	40	565	1076
1994-95	240	258	42	580	1120
1995-96	252	263	43	600	1158
1996-97	268	277	44	617	1206
1997-98	264	281	44	654	1243
1998-99	281	275	45	682	1283

Source: Annexure XVI and XVII.